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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

No. CXVII :—New Series.

REPORT

ON THE

ASSESSMENT OF THE RAHOOREE TALOOKA

IN THE

108454

AHMEDNUGGUR COLLECTORATE.

WITH MAP AND DIAGRAMS.

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PREFACE

Government having ordered that the reports and correspondence relating to the revision by me, in the Revenue year 1849-50, of the Assessment of the Rahooree Talooka in the Ahmednugger Collectorate, be prepared for the press under my supervision, I have, with their approval, extracted from the official records of the time, all papers bearing on the subject that appear to be of any importance and have arranged them in their proper order. Those selected are given without material alteration, and, in addition, a diagram has been appended, showing the financial results of the Settlement up to 1865-66, the latest year for which I am in possession of complete returns. A few villages formerly included in the Talooka were, subsequently to 1849-50, transferred to other districts; but the information given in the diagram has been prepared from the accounts of the several villages of which the Talooka was made up at the time of Settlement, and which form the subject of the correspondence now published.

G. S. A. ANDERSON, Colonel,

Political Agent, Kolhapoor and Southern Maratha Country,
formerly Superintendent Revenue Survey
and Assessment, Ahmednugger.

Kolhapoor Districts, May 1870.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Letter from Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson to Richard Spooner, Esq. (No. 110 of 1849)	1
Rahooree Talooka—General principles adopted in settlement of Rates—Annexed Report of Mr. A. F. Davidson, Assistant Superintendent	1
Villages to which the proposals refer—Number and description of Villages	2
Constitution of Talooka—Boundaries—Natural features of District	3
Form of Talooka—Transfer of Villages	4
Soil—Aspect—Condition of the Cultivators	5
Crops	6
Markets—Main Road	7
Climate	8
Causes of impoverished condition—Former Revenue management — Land Measures and Rates of Assessment	9
Farming System—Revenue management under British Government	10
Rates of Assessment	11
Survey and Classification	13
Diagram (reference to)	14
Information embodied in Diagram	15
Review of former Settlements	16
Assessment of previously settled Districts—Rates	18
Diagram No. 4 (reference to)—Explanation of Contents	19
Future prospect	20
Position of Villages and maximum rates—Classes of Villages—Alienated Villages—Relief to Cultivators	22

PAGE

Average Assessment—Garden land 23
Former Assessment—Settlement of Garden Rates 24
Maximum Rate per acre—Average rate—General Results of Settlement 25
Statement of Revenue, past and prospective—Explanation of Statement 26
Financial Results—Huks—Estimated value 27
Duration of Settlement—General Remarks—Poverty of Districts 28
Principal causes of Poverty—Climate 29
Difficulty experienced in accumulating capital—Fluctuation of prices 30
Railway—Advantages of proposed Line, to Rahooree 31
Cart Road 32
Classification of Government Villages, referred to in para. 32, page 22 33
Classification of Alienated Villages, referred to in para. 33, page 22 34

LETTER FROM A. F. DAVIDSON, ESQ. TO LIEUTENANT GEORGE ANDERSON.. 35
Rivers 37
Soil 38
Principal Crops grown 39
Rubbee Crops 40
The Rotation of Crops 42
Value of land as effected by distance from the Village and Water —Means and Modes of Irrigation 43
Working Cattle and other live stock, &c.—Sheep 44
Rates of labour, how paid; in grain or money—Manner in which money and other transactions are conducted between the Cultivator and Native merchant—Rates of interest, &c. 45
The Manufactures of the Talooka are of a very insignificant nature 46
Market Towns—Roads 47

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN G. WINGATE TO E. H. TOWNSEND, ESQ. (No. 244 of 1849) 48

LETTER FROM H. E. GOLDSMID, ESQ. (Secretary to Government) TO E. H. TOWNSEND, ESQ. (No. 2018 of 1850) 52

PAGE

LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT G. S. A. ANDERSON TO RICHARD SPOONER, ESQ. (No. 133 of 1850) 55

Rahooree Talooka, Revenue Report for 1849-50 55

Form of Cultivation Register for Villages, &c 70

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER OF REVENUE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION, No. 651, DATED 31ST JANUARY, 1851 71

Superintendent Survey; Rahooree—Field Boundaries..... 71

Irrecoverable balance 72

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER FROM THE COLLECTOR OF AHMEDNUGGUR TO REVENUE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION, No. 3000, dated 25th November 1850 72

LETTER FROM H. E. GOLDSMID, ESQ. (Secretary to Government) TO E. H. TOWNSEND, ESQ. (No. 2305 of 1851)..... 75

APPENDIX 79

ERRATA.

At Page 2, fourteenth line from top, for "statements" read "statement."

„ „ heading of statement for "names" read "name."

„ 10, sixth line from bottom, omit comma after "far."

„ 11, second line, for "taking up land" read "taking up of land."

„ „ fifth line from top, omit comma after "Before."

„ 19, end of ninth line from bottom, for "distict" read "district."

„ 30, tenth line from top, omit comma after "cultivation."

„ 38, twelfth line from top, for "Prowa" read "Prowra;" and at tenth line from bottom, for "or every" read "for every."

„ 60, seventh line from bottom, for "exhorbitant" read "exorbitant."

„ 65, tenth line from top, omit comma after "effected."

„ 71, twelfth line from top, omit comma after "talooka."

No. 110 of 1849.

To RICHARD SPOONER, Esq.,

Collector, Ahmednuggur.

Sir,—The survey and classification of the Rahooree Talooka, of the Principal Division of the Ahmednuggur Collectorate, having been completed, I have the honour to submit proposals for the introduction of new rates of Assessment into that District.

Rahooree Talooka.

2. The general principles, according to which the settlement of rates for surveyed districts should be effected, are pointed out by the three Superintendents of Revenue Survey in paras. 66 to 78 of their joint Report, to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, dated 2nd August 1847; and I have been guided by them in making the Settlement now submitted for sanction; but, in order that you may be enabled to form a judgment of the correctness of the conclusions arrived at by me, I shall endeavour to bring forward in this communication such facts and arguments relating more particularly to the district of Rahooree, as may tend in any way to throw light on the subject of its re-assessment.

General principles adopted in Settlement of rates.

3. My assistant, Mr. A. F. Davidson, having been employed during a period of three years in superintending the operations connected with the Survey and classification of Rahooree, has had many favourable opportunities of becoming acquainted with the condition of the cultivators, and of acquiring local experience. It therefore affords me pleasure to invite your attention to the annexed copy of a well-written report with which that gentleman has furnished me, as it contains many interesting statements and observations illustrative of the present state and peculiarities of the district.

Annexed Report of Mr. A. F. Davidson, Assistant Superintendent

4. My proposals relate to 119 villages, of which 101 belong to Government, and 18 are wholly or partially alienated. The Survey of the latter was undertaken at the request of the proprietors, and the measure was sanctioned by Government, on the understanding that the rates fixed by the Survey Department should be adopted. A revised assessment will therefore be applied to them in the same manner, and on the same terms, as to the Government villages. The survey of six alienated villages has not been effected, the proprietors not having expressed a wish to adopt new rates of assessment. The district thus contains 125 villages, as shown in the following statements the small figures indicating the surveyed, and the large black figures the unsurveyed villages.

Villages to which the proposals refer.

Para : 5 of a letter from Government to Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, dated 8th March 1848, No. 1461, and Gomment letter to Revenue Commissioner, dated 30th October 1848, No. 6659.

Names of Turruf or old Division	Number and description of Villages.			
	Belonging to Government	Wholly Alienated.	Partially Alienated.	Total.
1 Bara-gaon Nundoor	13	0	0	13
2 Belapoor	52	9	9	70
	0	1	2	3
	52	10	11	73
3 Rahooree.....	36	0	0	36
	0	0	3	3
	36	0	3	39
Surveyed	101	9	9	119
Unsurveyed	0	1	5	6
Total.....	101	10	14	125

KHANDESH COLLECTORATE
CHANDORE
HIRDOORREE
NASIK
NIZAM'S TERRITORY
POONA COLLECTORATE
AHMEDNUGGUR DISTRICT
MAP
OF THE SURVEYED PORTION OF THE
AHMEDNUGGUR COLLECTORATE
Shewing the Relative Position of the different Districts
Scale of Miles
NOTE
The Ranges are Edged. Green.

Constitution of Talooka.

5. In the time of the Government of the Peishwas, the Turrufs of Rahooree and Belapoor belonged to the purgunnah of Sungumnair. The Turruf of Bara-gaon Nandoor was formerly held in Surinjam, but about 50 years ago it came under the direct management of Government. On the acquisition of the country by the British in 1818, a separate talooka was formed, and a mamlutdar was stationed at the market town of Rahooree. This arrangement was upset in 1824-25, the Belapoor and Rahooree Turrufs reverting to Sungumnair, and Bara-gaon Nandoor being attached to Nuggur but the talooka, according to its existing form, was again established in 1838-39. Mr. Davidson, in the 2nd para. of his report, estimates its superficial extent, inclusive of alienated lands, to be about 3,31,632 acres, or 518·2 square miles.

Boundaries.

6. The boundaries of the district, and its position with relation to the portion of the collectorate already surveyed and assessed, are clearly exhibited on the accompanying map (No. 2). It adjoins Patoda, Sinnur and Sungumnair; being situated to the south of the first, and to the east of the two latter districts. On the south it is separated from Kurdeh and Nuggur by a continuation of the same branch of the Syadree range of Ghauts, which forms the southern boundary of the neighbouring district of Sungumnair. To the eastward extend the flat lands of the Newasseh Talooka.

Natural features of district.

7. There is nothing very striking in the appearance of the natural features of the district. The talooka forms a portion of an extensive plain country, which is drained by the Godavery, and the tributary streams of that river. The limits of the plain in this direction are well defined by the hills on the south, the country beyond being of greater elevation, and presenting a more varied and undulating surface. The hilly barrier alluded to, however, is broken near its centre by the Moola river, which conveys some of the waters of the upper country towards the plain. The southernmost portion of the talooka, lying between the Moola and the hills near the village of Wambooree, forms a bay drained by the

Deo, a tributary stream of the Moola, and is skirted by lower and more broken hills than those to the westward of the latter river. At Wambooree, the hills again attain considerable height, and stretch eastwards, forming the southern boundary of the Newasseh Talooka. These hills are almost destitute of vegetation, and have a bare and rugged aspect; the strongly marked lines, denoting the horizontal position of the strata, which are visible at corresponding intervals in the different hills, contrasting in a striking manner with the vertical fissures worn into their steep sides by the action of water. The river Prowra runs in an easterly direction through the centre of the district, and on the borders of Newasseh is joined by the Moola, approaching from the south. The united stream flows through Newasseh to the Godavery. The northern range of hills, which runs parallel to the Prowra during a portion of its course through Sungumnair, subsides at some distance from the Rahooree boundary; but there is a slightly elevated ridge continued into the latter district, the position of which may be discerned on the map from observing the direction of the streams flowing from its summit towards the Godavery on the one side and the Prowra on the other. The soil in the vicinity of this ridge is of a poorer description than that which generally prevails, and water is also more scarce and lies at a greater depth than in other parts of the district.

Form of Talooka.

8 The general form of the talooka is compact, and does not appear to require alteration. Its boundary on the Sungumnair side might, however, be somewhat improved. The Government villages of Kurreet Boodroog and Kurreet Khoord, and the alienated village of Mandwa, at present attached to Sungumnair, are surrounded by villages belonging to Rahooree, and might therefore be transferred to the latter talooka with advantage. The space coloured green on the Map (No. 1) exhibits the lands of these villages. The Rahooree villages of Hunmunt-gaon and Patreh, coloured yellow on the map, might be given in exchange, as they are bounded on the north and south by Sungumnair villages. I know of no objection to this arrange-

Transfer of Villages.

ment, as all the villages alluded to were originally included in the purgunnah of Sungumnair, and the hereditary district officers on both sides of the border belong to the same families.

9. It will be seen from para. 7 of Mr. Davidson's Report that the prevailing soil of the district is black, deep, rich, and clayey. It requires much rain to enable it to yield good crops, but it is very retentive of moisture, and in favourable seasons the Rubbee harvest is generally a most abundant one. Towards the hills in the south, and in the vicinity of the ridge to the north of the Prowra, the soil is of a poorer and more shallow description, than that of the plain, and is best suited for the production of Khureef crops. In some parts the fields are much cut up by the numerous and tortuous branches of the rivers and nullahs of the district. In his 4th paragraph, Mr. Davidson notices the scanty manner in which the country is wooded. There are a few trees near some of the villages, and they are also to be seen here and there in patches of garden land; but, except when the crops are on the ground, the whole plain certainly has a wretchedly naked and barren appearance. This scarcity of wood is principally to be attributed to the poverty of the cultivating classes, who, when in good circumstances, generally preserve their mangoe and other plantations with great care, and it is to be hoped that when the ryots become more prosperous, they will pay greater attention to the preservation of old trees and planting of new ones, and that the appearance of the country in this respect will be improved. The depth and richness of the soil, and the plentiful supply of water throughout the district, are very favourable to the growth of various kinds of trees. Were all the arable lands properly cultivated, the aspect of the district would also be much improved, and a pleasing picture of wealth and prosperity would then be presented to the eye.

Soil.

Aspect.

10. It is only after a long and intimate acquaintance with a tract of country generally, that a correct judgment can be formed of the relative capabilities of any particular portion of it.

Condition of the cultivators.

I have not been stationed in the Deccan for a long period, and my opportunities of personal observation have therefore been limited; but I should infer, from several circumstances, that Rahooree is in a more impoverished state than the talookas of this Collectorate previously surveyed. It possesses little capital of any kind. The number of working bullocks amounts only to 8,475, which compared with the extent and fertility of the arable land, the portion of this under cultivation, and the number of cultivators, is proportionately less than that of any other surveyed talooka. There is also a less extent of garden and other cultivation of a superior description in this talooka, than in any of the others, excepting Patoda. The manufactures, as mentioned in the 16th paragraph of Mr. Davidson's Report, are of an inferior description, and of very limited amount, and the trade of the district may be said to be confined to the export of grain and sheep, and the import of the few articles required to supply the moderate wants of the villagers, The cultivators of the villages situated along the banks of the Prowra are perhaps in rather better circumstances than those of other villages, but there is no material difference in the condition of the cultivators in the several parts of the talooka.

11. The general poverty of the cultivators has made them fall an easy prey to the Marwarees and other money-lenders, who are to be found in every large village, and there are few cultivators of independent means, who are able from their reserve funds to meet the losses caused by a bad season, the death of a bullock, or other unforeseen calamity. In an unfavourable year many ryots are even unable to earn a livelihood, and are forced to desert the district and proceed to Bombay, and other places in search of labour.

Crops.

12. The principal agricultural products of the district are Bajree, Jowarree, Wheat, and Gram. The two last are the best paying crops, and are exported in sufficient quantities to enable the ryots to meet the revenue demands of Government. Prices, however, are not steady, and as few Ryots are rich enough to reserve their grain, and to watch for a favourable state of the market, the profits in some years are very

inconsiderable; and, to pay his rent, a Ryot has frequently to part with a bullock or other property. The cultivation is about one-third Khureef, and two-thirds Rubbee. The mode of husbandry cannot be considered good. Manure is not generally applied to the dry-crop lands. The black-soil is ploughed by a six or eight-bullock plough, at intervals of four, six, or even ten years, and a smaller description of plough or harrow is used in the intermediate years. When the land becomes exhausted, fresh soil is turned up by the large plough, or the field is allowed to lie fallow, and another one is taken up by the cultivator. The land is also not kept sufficiently clean, and the crops are much injured in consequence. In some cases the Meeras lands are better cultivated, but in general the husbandry is very defective. This is principally to be attributed to the reduced circumstances of the cultivators, as the latter are not wanting in industry, and are quite aware that by spending more labour and capital on their lands, than their existing means will permit, they would much increase their profits, and improve their condition.

Markets.

13 There are no markets of importance within the district. The surplus agricultural produce is principally bought up by the corn merchants residing in Belapoor, Rahooree, and Wambooree, for export to Nuggur, Poonah, and Bombay; but the former towns are not much resorted to by persons connected with other districts, and are inferior, in wealth and trading enterprize, to Sungumnair, Sinnur, Yeolah, and other market towns of neighbouring districts.

Main road.

The main road from Nuggur, towards Nassick and Malligaum, enters the district on the south, passing over the Nimbadhéra Ghaut, and as there is no other opening in the hills, passable for carts, to the westward as far as Chundnapooree, a distance of about 40 miles, or to the eastward as far as Jeor, a distance of about 12 miles, (vide Map No. 1) a considerable amount of traffic, as will be seen from Mr. Davidson's 18th paragraph, passes along this line, and the traffic would probably be much increased were it not that the bad state of the road, especially in the vicinity of the Ghaut, causes much

obstruction to the passage of carts and bullocks. There is no other principal cart-road in the district, and the villages to the south and south-west being near the one above mentioned, and also being more favourably situated, with regard to the chief trading towns of Rahooree and Wambooree, may perhaps possess greater advantages with respect to markets than the villages to the northward and north-eastward, but not to any great extent, as the level nature of the district renders the carriage of grain, in any direction, easy during the greater portion of the year.

Climate.

14. I consider the climate of Rahooree to be inferior to that of any district yet reported on, with the exception of Patoda. Although Rahooree in its general position, lies further to the eastward than the latter talooka, it is more favourably placed with respect to the main line of Ghauts; and the minor branches of hills, which jut out in this direction, serve to attract and conduct inland the rains of the south-west monsoon, and thus render more fertile the adjoining plain country. The clouds passing along the northern branch of the Sungumnair hills, alluded to in my 7th paragraph, are thence dispersed, and discharge their waters in their progress over the southern portion of Rahooree; and so apparent are the advantages derived from this source that Mr. Davidson, in his 5th paragraph, is even of opinion that the fall of rain is more plentiful and certain in Rahooree than in Sungumnair. The results of my own observations and enquiries, however, lead me to believe that this is not the case, although, from the cause mentioned, the inferiority of the Rahooree climate is probably not so great as would otherwise be the case. In Sungumnair there is a greater quantity of spontaneous vegetation, and the uncleared lands in that district are covered with larger and more healthy looking bushes and trees than in Rahooree; and this fact alone would tend to prove that Sungumnair enjoys the most favourable climate, as the intrinsic capablities of the soil along the banks of the Prowra are much the same in both districts. The villages adjoining the hills, in the south-western extremity of the district, enjoy the best climate, and the fall of rain is more scanty and precarious towards the north and north-east.

15. When the Rahooree villages came into British possession, in 1818, they were probably in a more reduced condition than those situated nearer the Ghauts. From their unprotected position in the plain, and their vicinity to the high road leading from Poonah towards Malwa and Hindoostan, they were more subjected to plunder by the numerous marauding armies and bands of thieves, by which the country was over-run during the later years of the government of the Peishwas, than more easily defended and remote villages. The district suffered much about the year 1798-99 in the time of the wars between Dowlut Rao Scindiah and the two Byes, It was also plundered by Yeswunt Rao Holkar's army in 1802-3. and subsequently Bheels and Pindharees made frequent visits to many of the villages Several thousands of the former tribe were in 1804 inveigled to the neighbouring town of Kopergaum in Patoda, by Munohurgeer Gosaeen, and were thrown into wells, where they perished; but the Pindharees continued their depredations till 1818. During these unsettled times many of the villages were completely deserted, and to this day the Meerasdars and other hereditary villagers are fewer in number in Rahooree than in any district hitherto reported on.

Causes of impoverished condition.

Vide Grant Duff's History, vol. 3, page 338.

16. The system of Revenue management which prevailed generally in the Ahmednuggur Collectorate before the country came under British rule, is described in Mr. Goldsmid's Chandore Survey Report, and it is therefore only necessary that I should mention those leading features which appear to be applicable to Rahooree. The nominal land measures and rates of assessment were those of the Mahomedan Rukba and Tunka, but they had probably been frequently altered in their details by different governments to meet purposes of the day. The last general settlement of any importance is said to have been made in 1759-60, during the Sir Soobahdarship of Naro Bappoojee Nuggurkur, who caused the land to be measured, and the size of the beegha to be adjusted to the different descriptions of soil; for

Former Revenue Management.

Land measures and rates of assessment.

instance, the area of a field may have been ascertained by measurement to be 40 beeghas, but it was entered in the accounts as containing only 20 beeghas, to admit of its being assessed on the same terms as the first-class soil in the same village. As no authentic records of this or any former settlement are obtainable, it may perhaps be rash to hazard an opinion on the subject, but that some such plan of measurement must have been originally adopted may be inferred from the fact that the beegha throughout the principal division of the Collectorate is almost invariably found to be a measure of quality, and not of quantity.

Farming system.

17. Whatever may have been the mode of assessment in force previous to the introduction of the farming system in 1802-3, it was virtually abrogated from that year, until the overthrow of the Peishwas Government in 1818, for during the whole of that period no fixed rules were observed regarding the giving out of land for cultivation, and the annual collections from a village were limited, not by established rules or rates, but by the degree of extortion exercised by the farmer and his agents, and the means of payment possessed by the villagers. Thus, on the country passing into our hands, in 1818, the land measures and rates of assessment were not only of the most undefined nature, but those which had nominally been preserved in the village accounts, or in the minds of the village officers, were not applicable to the existing state of affairs, and it therefore was utterly impossible to introduce order and equity in the revenue management on the basis of former settlements.

Revenue management under British Government.

18. During the early period of our rule no measures were adopted for the purpose of regulating, in a satisfactory manner, the land assessment of the talooka. The areas, in beeghas, of the different holdings were ascertained so far, as the imperfect state of village records permitted, but it is not to be supposed that these documents were in all cases trustworthy, and, even had they been so, they would not have afforded by any means a correct representation of the actual occupation of holdings in the field, as the absence of boundary marks, the variable size of the

beegha, and the confusion of holdings caused by the great licence allowed to the villagers with regard to the taking up land for cultivation during the continuance of the farming system, rendered it impossible to trace and restore, with any degree of accuracy, the original division of the village lands. Before, 1825-26 it was customary in doubtful cases, to measure a holding, and on its extent in beeghas being found to exceed that recorded in the village papers, the excess was assessed at the usual rates, but as the beegha of measurement was of a fixed standard, and the beegha of cultivation varied in extent according to the quality of its soil, this mode of procedure must have had an injurious, instead of a beneficial tendency. When the operations of the former Deccan Survey were about to be extended to the villages of the district, in 1825-26, the aggregate areas of the different holdings were compared with the Rukba, or maximum area of each village; and where they did not tally, the extent of land not accounted for, or the deficiency of beeghas, was entered in the village papers, but no extra assessment was levied on this account, and the measure was productive of no useful results. No change in the former system was effected by the survey, as it was suspended at an early period, and a few villages only were measured and classified. In 1833, the practice of numbering the holdings was introduced, and annual field registers have since been prepared, but no general measurement of the village lands, in the principal division of the Collectorate, has at any time been made, and until the district was surveyed by this Department, no satisfactory data were available to the Revenue Officers, by which a true estimate of the extent of land held by each cultivator could be formed; and the loose system, which was a necessary consequence of such a confused state of things, has been far from favourable to the development of agricultural prosperity.

Rates of assessment.

19. The rates of assessment which had nominally existed under the Peishwas Government, were not altered by us on obtaining possession of the country. There were in all about 21 different rates for dry crop soils throughout the district, ranging from 4 annas to 2 rupees

for each beegha. Generally, there were three or four different rates at which the holdings of a village were assessed, according to their respective values, but in some cases the entire lands of a village were assessed at the same rate, the varying size of the beegha preventing the unequal assessment that would otherwise have resulted from the difference in value of the several descriptions of soil. It is impossible to ascertain, with accuracy, how these rates were originally settled, and any information on this point, even if procurable, would not be of much practical utility, as the assessment has been found to be wholly unsuited for the district. In its operation it has also been of such an oppressive nature, that, to modify in some degree its injurious effects, many departures from a sound revenue system have been found necessary. Remissions of assessment, as will be noticed more particularly hereafter, have been granted to a very great extent. Up to 1838-39 a system of letting land on reduced rates on Cowles of 2, 3, and 4 years' duration, prevailed. The ryots have also been allowed to cultivate portions of holdings, the assessment on the waste portions being entirely remitted. This practice, though perhaps a necessary evil, resulting from the poverty of the ryots and the heaviness of the rates, is a very objectionable one, and can only be considered allowable in such a state of confusion as that which has hitherto prevailed. It doubtless in some degree modified the oppressive nature of the existing assessment, as it enabled the ryots to select the most profitable and to reject the inferior soils of the holdings under cultivation, but it afforded many facilities for concealed cultivation, and must have encouraged fraud to a great extent on the part of the village officers, and others employed in the annual inspection of fields. Subsequently, in 1836-37 and after years, many of the rates were lowered, in some instances as much as 20 and 25 per cent., and some relief was in consequence afforded to the district, but not to such an extent as materially to improve its condition.

20. It appears doubtful to me whether the system of revenue management which has prevailed since the introduction of British Rule has tended more to the advantage and prosperity of the dis-

trict than the justly abused farming system of Bajee Row. More equitable principles have certainly been adopted, but so many obstacles have interfered with their right application, and the foundation upon which we have built is so unsound, that no lasting benefits could be expected to result from a series of petty reforms, and modifications of the old and oppressive system. Under our Government the assessment has probably been lighter and the mode of collection less harsh, but the extent of land under cultivation has been more narrowly subjected to scrutiny, and more rigid rules on the subject enforced, whilst the ryot still, in a great measure, remained at the mercy of the unscrupulous and intriguing Village Officer, and his position with regard to Government was of such an undefined and unsatisfactory nature that the inducement to honest exertion and enterprize, which a greater feeling of security from fraud, and a more independent position would without doubt have incited in his mind, was wanting, and, instead, were engendered discontented feelings which paralized his energy, and made the Government appear in the light of a merciless creditor, whom it was his interest to defraud and elude by every means in his power. A long period of peace has followed a state of anarchy and war, and the population and amount of farming capital may in consequence be somewhat increased, but the advance towards prosperity, or rather the recovery from adversity, has been so slight, and the ryots are still so disheartened and impoverished, that no doubt can be entertained that a considerable reduction of assessment, combined with the introduction of a better defined system of Revenue management, has become absolutely necessary for the well-being of the district.

Survey and Classification.

21. Before proceeding to a consideration of the Revenue hitherto derived from the district, and the rates of assessment best adapted to ensure its future prosperity, I have only to mention that the works of survey and classification have been effected according to the methods which have previously been reported on and which have met with the approval of the Government. The average error in the measurement amounts to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the

acres, and in the classification, to 5½ pies on the fields tested in the different villages. The degree of accuracy attained in both works is sufficient to regulate, in a satisfactory manner, the distribution of the assessment, and need not be farther commented upon here, as the details connected with both operations have been already fully explained in the annual Progress Reports of the Department. The division of the village lands into fields has been effected without the slightest encroachment on, or interference with, existing rights, and the fields have been numbered and defined by boundary marks in the usual manner. The classification scale made use of is the same as that adopted for Patoda, Nassick, and the eastern portion of Sungumnair, and I am of opinion that it fully answers the purpose of placing the soils of the District in their proper relative positions, with reference to the intrinsic capabilities of each description of soil.

The number of annas assigned to each class is as follows:—

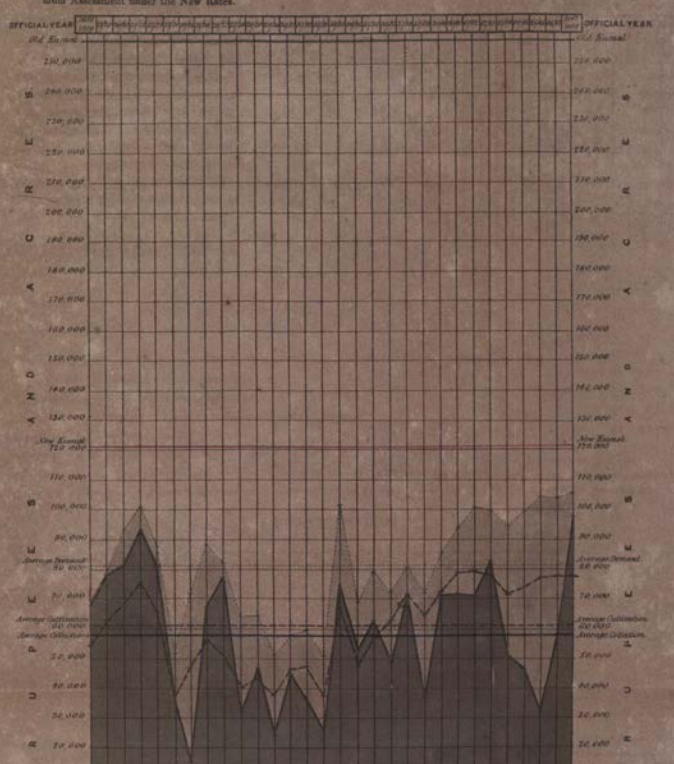
1st	Class	16	annas.
2nd	,,	13½	,,
3rd	,,	11	,,
4th	,,	9	,,
5th	,,	7	,,
6th	,,	5½	,,
7th	,,	4	,,
8th	,,	3	,,
9th	,,	2	,,

Diagram.

22. The accompany diagram (No. 3) exhibits the results of the annual revenue settlements of all the Government villages, for the whole period of British rule from 1818-19 to 1847-48. In the cases of nine villages complete accounts for some of the years were not obtainable, but as the aggregate number of years for which exact data cannot be discovered is only twenty six, the villages have been included in the diagram, a proportionate increase having been made to the entries for the years for which accounts are missing. The eighteen alienated villages have been excluded, as I have been

No. 3.

DIAGRAM exhibiting the annual amount of Land Assessment, Remissions, and actual Collections of the RAHOOREE DISTRICT, since it came into the possession of the Honorable Company, as contrasted with the maximum Assessment under the New Rates.



EXPLANATION.

The Green Line shows the Old Kumal or Maximum sum nominally imposed on the Government Land.

The Red Line shows the New Kumal or Maximum sum imposed on entire Government arable Land.

The Dotted Line shows the annual demand on Cultivated Land.

The Strong Black Line shows the annual Collections.

The space between the Dotted and Black Lines shows the annual Remissions.

The Blue Line shows the Average of past Collections.

The Thick Broken Line shows the annual Cultivation.

The space between the Thick Broken and Dotted Lines shows by how much the rate annually exceeded one rupee per acre.

The point at which the zigzag lines cross the perpendicular let fall for each year shows the amount of each item for that year.

EXAMPLE.

YEAR 1832-33.

Cultivated . . . Acres	37,223
Demand thereon . . .	50,707
Actual Collections . .	25,735
Remissions . . .	24,972

unable to obtain sufficiently correct accounts to admit of their being entered. The column for each year shows the extent in acres of the cultivated land subject to the full assessment, the amount of revenue realized therefrom, and the amount of remissions. All other items of revenue, and the value of the Huks of Hereditary Officers, have been excluded and will be noticed hereafter. The beegha is the only land measure in the district, and the extent of cultivation recorded in beeghas, in the village accounts, has been estimated in acres, for each year, according to the proportion which the total area of the village, in beeghas, bears to its area in acres, as discovered by the measurement. The correctness of the areas thus estimated has been further tested by comparing the number of acres ascertained by the classers to have been actually under cultivation in the year of classification, with the number of beeghas entered for the same year in the village cultivation returns. The Revenue collections were made in Ankoosee rupees, up to 1838-39 and a percentage reduction of Rs. 4-1-3 has been made to equalize them with the rupees of the present currency. The old Kumal, or nominal maximum rental of the district, has been entered in the diagram as usual, but it affords us no estimate of the capabilities, or past realizations of the talooka.

Information embodied in diagram.

23. Owing to the changes in the constitution of the talooka, alluded to in my 5th paragraph, great difficulty was experienced in collecting the old papers from which to compile the information required for the diagram. Village statements, embodying this information, were in the first instance prepared by the Zumeendars of the district; but these, on examination, were found to be so full of mistakes, that I had a second set of statements prepared under the superintendence of the Mamlutdar. This has caused much delay, but the information in the diagram may now be perfectly depended on, at least so far as the accounts themselves are trustworthy. A general statement has been framed and the accounts tested in the manner recommended in Para. 74 of the three Superintendents joint Report of 2nd August 1847.

24. A very cursory examination of the diagram will suffice to prove that the district has been in a very reduced and impoverished condition throughout the whole period of British rule, and that the heaviness of the assessment has effectually presented a bar to any steady advance towards prosperity. There are about 200,000 acres of arable land in the villages included in the diagram, and this is generally of a good description, and, under proper tillage, capable of yielding, in ordinary seasons, most luxuriant crops; yet the average extent of land, ascertained from the records to have been under the plough during 30 years of perfect peace, is only about 61,000 acres, and even including the internal waste portions of fields, the extent of land under cultivation, in any year, has never amounted to one-half of the arable land of the district. The great fluctuations in the Revenue also indicate that agriculture has never been in a healthy state, and that the capital of the district has been so heavily encroached upon, that the cultivators have not been able to invest any profits in the improvement of the soil. My enquiries also lead me to believe that heavy rates, and comparatively low prices, and the consequent difficulties of obtaining employment and subsistence, have even frequently forced cultivators and labourers to desert a district where they might, under more favourable circumstances, have been so profitably employed.

Review of former Settlements.

25. In judging of the results of past settlements the first period of seven years, from 1818-19 to 1824-25, and the last year 1847-48, cannot fairly be taken into consideration. During the four or five years immediately following our conquest of the country, prices were high, and few remissions of revenue were granted. The collections, therefore, were high, but they pressed so hard on the resources of the cultivators, that both revenue and cultivation declined in consequence, and in 1824-25, a year of famine, the collections only amounted to Rs. 15,000. The year 1847-48 was also a peculiar one. In a district about to be surveyed, the number of acres under cultivation for some years preceding the introduction of the revised assessment, generally represents a fictitious state of prosperity, as the cultivators are induced, by

the prospect of reduced rates and enhanced profits, to retain, or take up more land than their means warrant, and, as in the year in question, the harvest was an unusually abundant one, and remissions on account of failure of crops were only granted in a few cases, and to a very limited extent, the collections were very high; but, judging from the experience of past settlements, I should think that they must have borne most heavily on the capital of the district, and that they must have encroached considerably on the already weakened resources of the cultivators. The period of 22 years, from 1825-26 to 1846-47, is perhaps the best adapted for the purpose of affording data from which a fair estimate of the capabilities of the district can be formed. In 1825-26, the talooka in some degree recovered from the effects of the famine of the preceding year, but it was still probably in an exhausted state, and could not bear a heavy assessment, as it will be observed that 1826-27, the next year of high collections and scanty remissions, was followed by six years of very low collections, and decreased cultivation, until 1833-34, when a favourable change occurred, and a comparatively steady assessment prevailed until 1841-42. The reduction of rates alluded to in my 19th paragraph, may, in some measure, have benefited the district during this period. In 1842-43 the collections again rose, but the usual sequence, a decline of revenue in succeeding years, is observable, although, for the reasons stated above, the cultivation appears to have increased rather than fallen off during the four years from 1843-44 to 1846-47.

26. It is therefore evident that the assessment must be fixed at a lower standard, than that which has hitherto prevailed, to ensure the future prosperity of the talooka. The average assessment throughout the whole period entered in the diagram, is Rs. 0-15-3 per acre, and for the period of 22 years, which I have assumed as that best calculated to give a tolerably fair estimate of the capabilities of the district, the average rate is Rs. 0-14-2 per acre. This rate, however, refers to the land in cultivation, after deducting the internal waste portions of fields, and it is probable that the cultivators, in many instances, held more land than was entered in their names in the accounts, and that they made use of the

waste land for grazing purposes. The assessment also includes the rental of garden land, so that, even making allowances for the hucks of hereditary officers, which are principally collected on cultivated land, the average assessment actually paid by dry crop soils does not in all probability exceed Rs. 0-13-0 to Rs. 0-14-0 per acre. I can offer an opinion on this subject with the more confidence, as I have, for my own satisfaction, submitted for the consideration and advice of the Superintendent of the Southern Mahratta Country Revenue Survey several doubtful points, which the confused system of revenue management described in my 17th, 18th, and 19th paragraphs, and my limited experience, did not enable me fully to clear up, and regarding which I therefore thought it would be expedient to consult with such an experienced Officer as Captain G. Wingate.

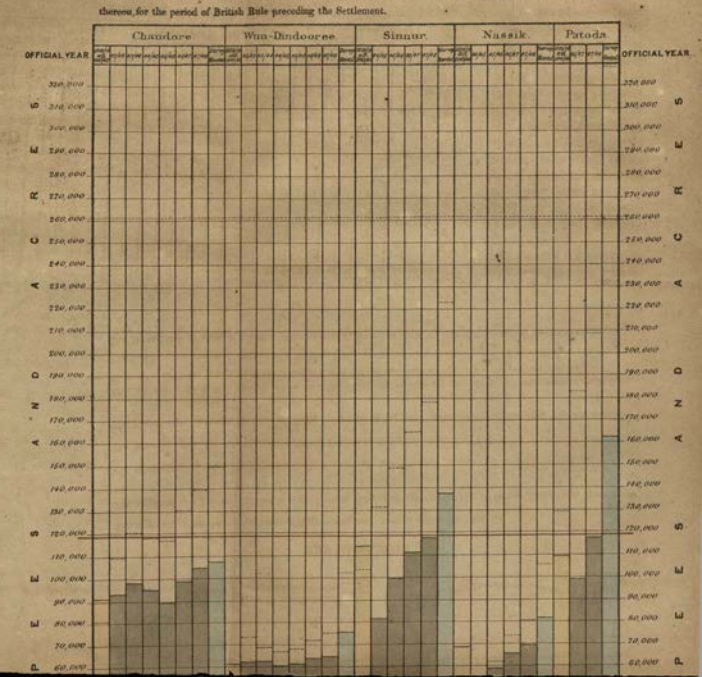
Assessment of previously settled districts. Rates.

27. I shall now briefly notice the assessment imposed on the districts previously settled. The survey rates in some of the talookas have been in operation for several years, and a knowledge of the results of the settlements will assist us in fixing rates for the different classes of villages in the Rahooree Talooka. The maximum rates for dry crop soils in the several districts are as follows:—

No.	Name of Talooka.	Classes of villages.	Maximum rate per acre.
1	Chandore	One Class	1 8 0
2	Wun Dindooree	One Class	1 8 0
3	Sinnur	One Class	1 8 0
4	Nassik	1st Class	1 12 10
		2nd Class	1 11 7
		3rd Class	1 10 5
5	Patoda	1st Class	1 4 0
		2nd Class	1 0 0
6	Desh portion of Ankola	1st Class	2 0 0
		2nd Class	1 12 0
		3rd Class	1 8 0
7	Sungumnair.	1ts Class	1 12 0
		2nd Class	1 8 0

No. 4.

DIAGRAM illustrative of the results of the Survey Settlements in five Districts of the AHMEDNUGGUR Collectorate, as contrasted with the average extent of Land in Cultivation in each District, and the net Assessment thereon for the period of British Rule preceding the Settlement.



EXPLANATION.

The items are measured by the Scale of Rupees and Acres carried across the Diagram.

The height of the Yellow Column in each division shows the Average amount of former Collections from the District.

The Black Columns exhibit the Collections in the several years since the introduction of the Survey Rates.

The Blue Columns give the Maximum Survey Rentals of the several Districts.

The Dotted lines show the number of Acres Cultivated in the years indicated by the Columns they are carried across.

The Horizontal Black line carried across the whole Diagram exhibits the amount of Revenue realized from the five Districts in 1847-48, in excess of the Average Collections of the years preceding the Survey Settlements.

The Red line indicates the total excess of Maximum Survey Rentals over the Average amount of former Collections.

The Dotted line exhibits the excess of Cultivation in Acres, in 1847-48, over the Average Cultivation of former years.

28. The survey rates have only recently been introduced into the champaign portion of Ankola and into Sungumnair, and it would therefore be premature to offer a decided opinion as to the degree of prosperity to the cultivators, and increase of revenue to Government, which may be expected to result from the settlements of these districts, but in order to elucidate the results of the settlements in Chandore, Wun Dindooree, Sinnur, Nassick, and Patoda, I now submit a diagram (No. 4) which I prepared some time ago, principally for my own information. It embraces the settlements of each district from the first year of the Survey rates to 1847-48, the last year I was able to enter in it without delaying the present proposals. An explanation of the information embodied in the diagram is appended, and the revenue collections and acres of cultivation, in the several columns of each Division, refer to the same villages, and only include the Government lands on which Survey rates have been imposed. I have contrasted the last year of the Survey assessment with the average assessment of former years, and this appears to be the fairest method, as the Survey assessment has had an upward tendency in every district, and may, therefore, be expected to range even much higher in future years. The height of the yellow column in each division, and the dotted line carried across it, show the average collections and the extent of cultivation in acres, during the period of British rule preceding the settlement. The black columns give the same information for each year of the Survey Settlements, and the blue columns indicate the maximum Survey rentals of the five districts. In each distict, the collections and acres of cultivation in 1847-48 were in excess of former years of the old rates, and the black and dotted lines carried horizontally across the whole diagram, give the aggregate excess in each item. The red horizontal line shows the aggregate excess of revenue realizable from the five districts, provided all the arable lands were brought under cultivation.

Diagram No. 4.

Explanation of contents.

29. An inspection of the diagram cannot but lead to very satisfactory conclusions as to the beneficial effects of the revised

assessment. In all the districts the revenue collections have already risen considerably above their averages in former years, and as all my inquiries lead me to believe that the condition of the cultivators has been very much improved, and that farming stock has greatly increased, we may reasonably conclude, judging from the experience of past results, that there will be a higher rental and a continued advance to prosperity, in future years. The fluctuations in the revenue have also been very slight, when compared with those of districts assessed under the old system, and this may be readily observed from an examination of the diagrams illustrative of past settlements furnished for this and other surveyed districts. In Chandore, the earliest settled district the revenue realized in 1847-48, was Rs. 104,511, exceeding the average realizations of former years by about Rs. 13,000, and only falling short of the Survey kumal, or maximum rental, by about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Should the same progress be made in the other districts included in the diagram, the aggregate excess of revenue, according to this standard, would ultimately be Rs. 100,000, but the proportion of poor soils is greater, and the condition of the cultivators is worse in Patoda and Sinnur than in the remaining three talookas, and these and other causes may probably prevent the same results being arrived at in these districts until after the lapse of many years, and it is doubtful whether a permanent increase of more than Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 80,000 could with any certainty be calculated on; but, should the precarious state of our export trade not cause a considerable fall in the prices of agricultural produce, and thus diminish the profits, capital, and field for enterprize of the cultivating classes, I think that the information now before us gives a fair promise of the latter standard being ultimately arrived at.

Future prospect.

30. Although I am of opinion that the general tendency of the revenue and cultivation will be upwards, and that both an increase of revenue to Government, and great improvement in the condition of the cultivators may fully be expected ultimately to result from the survey settlements, I am not prepared to state that the advance

towards prosperity will be unchecked, and that no years of reduced cultivation and revenue will occur. It is not to be expected that even the most perfect and equitable rates of assessment will at once raise a district from a state of extreme poverty and depression to one of wealth and activity, and entirely obviate the great fluctuations in the revenue of former years. The majority of the cultivators in this Collectorate are much involved in debt, and a long period must necessarily elapse before, even with enhanced profits, they can free themselves from their liabilities, and accumulate capital to an extent sufficient to render them independent of unforeseen calamities, such as an unfavourable season, a murrain amongst their cattle, visitations of cholera, or other general causes of distress. Before a respectable cultivator can cover the losses of one year with the profits of the preceding one, he must have farming stock and other capital, amounting in value to, say, Rs. 400 or Rs. 500, and should he be in debt, or possessed of a small amount of capital, he must, in many unfavourable years, either reduce the extent of his farm, or cultivate beyond his means, in which latter case he would not only in time ruin himself, but so far as he is concerned, would also cause an eventual loss of revenue to Government. Periodical depressions in the state of a district, owing to failure of rain and other causes general in their operation may therefore in some measure be anticipated, as the revised assessment only secures to the cultivators a reasonable profit, and does not enable them all at once to become rich ; but I think that one very satisfactory fact is proved from past results, namely, that the cultivators in all the districts have displayed remarkable energy and industry in availing themselves of the improved circumstances in which they are placed under the new assessment, and that they must consequently be gradually acquiring capital to enable them to meet with less suffering, in future years, the calamities which have hitherto told on them so fearfully ; and that we may therefore, with confidence, expect that although the causes which lead to fluctuations in the revenue may not be immediately removed, they will be less severe in their operation in future years, and that they will gradually yield before the increasing independence and improved means of the cultivators.

31. I have mentioned, in my 14th paragraph, that I consider Rahooree to have an inferior climate to any surveyed district, with the exception of Patoda. The southern and most favourably situated portion of the latter talooka has a maximum dry crop rate of Rs. 1-4-0, and I think that the same rate might be applied with advantage to the least favourably situated villages of Rahooree, namely those lying to the north and north-east. Some of the villages on the south-western extremity of the talooka, adjoining the hills, might be assessed at the same rates of Rs. 1-8-0 as the least favourably situated villages of the neighbouring talooka of Sangumnair, and an intermediate rate of Rs. 1-6-0 might be adopted for those villages in the centre of the district, which do not benefit in any great degree by proximity to the hills, but which still possess a superior climate to that of the villages on the north and north-east, and are also, as will be seen from my 13th paragraph, better placed with regard to the principal markets of Nuggur and Poonah.

Position of villages and maximum rates.

32. I have, therefore, after a full consideration of all the circumstances already detailed, and of others which it is unnecessary here to enter upon, divided the talooka into three classes of villages. The first division contains 17 villages belonging to Government, to have a maximum rate per acre of Rs. 1-8-0 for dry crop soils. There are 33 Government villages in the second division, to be assessed at Rs. 1-6-0 per acre, and 51 villages in the third division, at Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. Lists of the villages comprised in each division are appended to this Report, and, to enable you to judge more fully of the position of the divisions, I have traced their boundaries on the map (No. 1) by red dotted lines.

Classes of villages.

33. Of the alienated villages, 7 come into the second, and 11 into the third division, and these are enumerated in the appendix.

Alienated villages.

34. These rates will afford a considerable relief to the cultivators. The average rate, assumed in my 26th paragraph to have been paid by the

Relief to cultivators.

dry crop lands under cultivation from 1825-26 to 1846-47, a period of 22 years, is Rs. 0-13-0 to Rs. 0-14-0 per acre, but it cannot be said that the district prospered under this assessment. The rates now proposed give an average assessment for all dry-crop lands, cultivated and waste, throughout the district, of Rs. 0-9-4 per acre, and the average rate on the fields wholly or partially cultivated in 1847-48 is Rs. 0-11-0, thus causing a reduction of about Rs. 0-2-6 per acre on cultivated fields, but perhaps a slight deduction should be made from the latter amount, as the survey rate here given applies to entire fields, and the old rate only to those portions of fields which were cultivated, and it is naturally to be supposed that the ryots would cultivate the superior, and leave waste the inferior soils. Higher rates could not be imposed without endangering the success of the settlement, but I consider that the reduction of assessment now proposed is sufficient to place this district in a similarly advantageous position to that of previously assessed districts.

Average assessment.

35. There are 2,170 acres of garden land for which rates still remain to be proposed. The whole of this land is irrigated from 949 wells, most of which are situated in the vicinity of the Prowra and Moola rivers. Near the banks of the former river especially there are many favourable localities for garden cultivation, and as it will be seen from paragraph 6 of Mr. Davidson's letter, that water is plentiful, it may be expected that many new wells will hereafter be sunk. The principal garden productions are wheat and gram. In a few villages a small quantity of sugarcane is grown, and near the large towns fruits and vegetables are produced in sufficient quantities for the consumption of the wealthier classes. Except in seasons of failure of rain and consequent rise of prices the profits derived from gardens in this talooka are very inconsiderable. Wheat, which is the principal crop grown, although in favourable seasons more productive than the same crop in dry crop soils, is more subject to disease when cultivated by irrigation, and last year, especially, I observed many crops entirely destroyed by "Tambhara," a species of blight caused by unseasonable showers and cloudy weather. There is no great demand within

Garden land.

the district for sugar, chillies, and other superior garden produce, and the limited capital of the cultivators does not at present admit of their making such an outlay as would be required to render the exports of importance.

Former assessment.

No regular system has hitherto been followed with regard to the assessment of garden land. Some gardens were rated as high as Rs. 4-0-0 per beegha, and others being entered in the accounts as "Jerayet" were assessed at dry crop rates. From 1823-24 to 1834-35 a variable tax was levied on "Panbhureet" land, that is land which was entered in the accounts as "Jerayet" and on which there was no permanent garden rate, but which was sometimes brought under irrigation. This tax was abolished in 1835-36, having realized, during its continuance, a yearly revenue of about Rs. 838. In 1824-25, a year in which the "Jerayet" crops failed, a sum of Rs. 4,875 was collected on the "Panbhureet" lands. The tax was no doubt found to be extremely oppressive on account of its uncertainty; but, in consequence of its entire remission, some gardens now escape Baghaet assessment altogether, whilst others are heavily rated, although both descriptions of land may possess the same advantages of irrigation.

Vide Para: 41 of Government letter to Revenue Commissioner, No. 2052 of 1st September 1835.

37. I am of opinion that in imposing an assessment on garden lands, irrigated from wells, the lowest rates that a due regard to the interests of Government will permit, should be fixed upon. Most of the wells are situated in Meeras holdings, and must have been dug by private enterprize, and, although by the custom of the country it is considered quite just that lands having the command of water for purposes of irrigation should be assessed higher than "Jerayet" lands, still the imposition of heavy rates would undoubtedly check the extension of garden cultivation, and discourage the cultivators from sinking new wells. In a champaign district like Rahooree, which in some years suffers much from drought and failure of rain, the incease of garden cultivation is also of much importance, and this ought to be borne in mind in assessing the Baghaet lands.

Settlement of garden rates.

38. The maximum rate per acre for Mothusthul or well gardens in the districts previously surveyed, excepting Patoda, is Rs. 4 per acre, but the garden cultivation of Rahooree is not so profitable, nor are the cultivators in such good circumstances as in the other districts alluded to. In Patoda the maximum rate is Rs. 3 per acre, and I would propose that this assessment be extended to Rahooree. After distributing the rates in the manner shown in the 18th paragraph of my predecessor's Report on Patoda, No. 62, of 14th September 1846, the average assessment for all garden lands throughout the district is Rs. 2-2-8. This gives a maximum rental of Rs. 4,720, being an increase of Rs. 387 on the revenue collections from garden lands in the year 1847-48.

Maximum rate per acre.

Average rate.

39. The general results of the settlement now proposed for the 101 Government villages comprised in the district are exhibited in the following statement, in which all the items of revenue hitherto derived from every description of land are entered in detail, and the total collections during different periods are contrasted with the estimated maximum survey rental.

General results of settlement.

Revenue, past and prospective.	Items.	Past Realizations of different periods contrasted with Estimated Survey Rental.		
		Last year, 1847-48.	Average of 22 years from 1825-26 to 1846-47.	Average of 30 years from 1818-19 to 1847-48.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Former Collections.	Actual collections on cultivated Government lands, according to Diagram No. 3	97,210	53,899	57,923
	Joodee collections on Hudola and Mohrana Inam lands	690	797	802
	Collections from pasture and grazing farms, &c.	1,262	133	157
	Pan-bhureet tax, abolished in 1835	....	212	339
	Googree, kurba, and other taxes, abolished in 1837-38	....	812	1,070
	Total of past realizations	99,162	55,853	60,291
Estimated Survey Rental.	Assessment on Government lands, included in Diagram No. 3....	1,20,000	1,20,000	1,20,000
	Maximum Joodee assessment on Hudola and Mohrana Inam lands	1,465	1,465	1,465
	Total....	1,21,465	1,21,465	1,21,465
Excess of Survey Rental over Realizations of past years		22,303	65,612	61,174

Explanation of statement.

40. The items of revenue entered in the statement refer to alienated as well as Government lands. The Hudola lands of the village Mahars and the inam holdings of Moolanas have hitherto generally been subjected to a joodee assessment, and as this is not affected by the survey settlements, except in cases where the

former assessment exceeds that determined by the survey rates when the excess is remitted, I have included in the survey rental the maximum amount hereafter leviable under this head. The assessment of pasture and grazing farms is absorbed in the survey kumal, and the "Pan-bhureet," "Googree," and other taxes, having been abolished, do not call for further remark.

Financial results.

41. The excess of survey rental over the realizations of past years is considerable, and the financial results of the settlement will probably be very favourable, as the soil of the district is in general good, and the collections may be expected soon to rise above the average of former years, and ultimately to range within Rs. 10,000 of the maximum survey rental.

Huks.

42. The huks and levies in kind of the hereditary district and village officers are also included in the survey rental, but as no decision has as yet been made regarding the manner in which their value is to be determined, I have not entered them in the past collections of the statement. According to the entries made by the recipients in the accounts for the past ten years their aggregate average annual value is Rs. 5,172, but I should think that Rs. 3,500 would more than cover the amount of compensation to which the hereditary officers will be found, on inquiry, to be entitled, and the latter amount must therefore be added to the average of past collections to enable us to form a correct estimate of the financial results of the proposed survey settlement.

Estimated value.

43. In accordance with the wish expressed in paragraph 13 of Government letter to the Revenue Commissioner, No. 9 of 7th January 1847, I herewith submit the survey assessment to a further comparison with the former collections. The realizations from the land under cultivation in 1847-48, as has been previously shown, amounted to Rs. 97,210. The survey rates applied to all the fields wholly or partially cultivated in the same year give a total assessment of Rs. 67,658. The decrease on the year is therefore Rs. 29,552, or 30½ per cent. In paragraph 21 of his report on Ankola

and Sungumnair, No. 33 of 26th November 1847, my predecessor pointed out that no weight can be attached to this mode of comparison, and I am also of opinion that the exhibited results of the past collections of a single year are quite useless for the purpose of enabling a fair judgment to be formed as to the effects of the revised assessment. This may be illustrated strongly by applying the survey rates in the same manner to the two years preceding 1847-48, during which period the cultivation fluctuated so slightly that we may assume it to have been the same in both years. The collections in 1845-46 were Rs. 32,027 and in 1846-47 Rs. 57,775. The survey assessment applied to 1845-46 would therefore show an increase of Rs. 35,631, or 111 per cent., and in 1846-47 an increase of Rs. 9,883, or 17 per cent.

Duration of Settlement.

44. Should the proposed settlement be approved, I have the honour to request that it may be declared permanent for a period of thirty years.

General remarks.

45. I have already alluded to the greatly impoverished condition of the talooka, and as in this respect it probably resembles many other champaign Deccan districts, a few additional remarks on the subject may not perhaps be considered irrelevant. The ruined state of the villages, the defective modes of husbandry, the wretched appearance of the working cattle, the coarse and inferior description of dress worn by the females, and many other visible signs, unmistakeably betoken an extreme degree of poverty, but it is difficult to determine whether this collectorate is in a more depressed state than others. So far as I can form a judgment, I think that the ryots of the Dharwar districts, with which I am well acquainted, are much more independent, both in character and means, than the ryots of the principal division of the Ahmednuggur Collectorate. Both collectorates were equally unsettled and subjected to plunder whilst under the dominion of the Mahrattas, and there does not appear to be any material difference in the style of revenue management pursued in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country; but this part of the

Poverty of Districts.

country was under Mahomedan rule for a much longer period than Dharwar, and probably the principles on which the prosperity and character of the people were based, in the time of the Native Hindoo Governments, were more undermined by a longer subjection to the selfish policy of the Musalman conquerors. The climate and soil of many of the Ahmednuggur districts are also inferior, and a greater degree of poverty would naturally result from this cause.

46. Besides the ruinous effects produced by Mahratta misrule, by the devastating wars in Bajee Row's reign, and by the faulty system of revenue management which has hitherto prevailed, there are two other principal causes of a more permanent character which have tended to check the energies of the cultivating classes, and which may still continue to operate injuriously for the future; namely, the very scanty fall of rain in some seasons, and the difficulty experienced by the ryots in finding a market for the profitable disposal of their agricultural produce.

Principal causes of poverty.

47. It is a generally acknowledged fact that the climate of this part of India has deteriorated, and that the fall of rain is not now so regular nor so plentiful as it formerly used to be. As vegetation is said to produce moisture in the atmosphere, the decrease of rain may simply result from a falling off in the cultivation. That cultivation was more widely extended in former times is learned from the testimony of Mr. Pringle, who, in reviewing the state of the country in his Report on the Purgunnas of Sewnair, Pabhul, and Indapoor, of the Poonah Collectorate, in 1828, states as follows in his 119th paragraph: "In examining the old village accounts of the best periods of Mahratta Government, those of the great Mahadeo Row and Nana Furnavees, it is a striking fact that although the assessment is often much higher than under us or in the latter years of Bajee Row's reign, yet cultivation appears to have been more widely extended, balances to have been more easily realized, wells to have been oftener dug, Meeras property to have been more generally diffused, and more frequently acquired by purchase

Climate.

and village grants, and, in short, that there are all the indications of a much higher state of agricultural prosperity than has been known in later times."

48. It is not, however, necessary to speculate on the causes that have had an influence in effecting an unfavourable change in the climate, for it may with safety be affirmed that were the cultivators in good circumstances the periodical occurrence of an unfavourable season would not be very severely felt, as in some years there is a great superabundance of grain; and were no fluctuations in the extent of land under cultivation, caused by the stagnation of trade and the consequent irregularity of prices and profits, the excess of food in one year would be amply sufficient to meet the deficiency in another. Under the defective modes of husbandry which prevail in many districts a season of scanty rain is also in some degree beneficial, as it affords relief to the land, which would otherwise soon be exhausted by the faulty system of cropping practised, the careless manner in which the soil is ploughed and prepared for seed, and the want of manure.

Difficulty experienced in accumulating Capital.

49. The main obstruction to the attainment of agricultural prosperity is the difficulty experienced by the cultivators in accumulating capital. In a district like Rahooree there are few roads by which money can be brought into circulation, and with no prospect of gain it is not to be expected that a ryot, however industrious or enterprising, will exert himself in the improvement of the soil. A reduction of assessment will much increase his energy, by relieving him of a portion of the load that has hitherto pressed so heavily on him; but his profits will still be small and precarious, and the prosperity of the district much retarded, unless a surer market is secured to him by increased facilities of communication with Bombay and other large trading towns. At present the stagnation of traffic causes great fluctuations in the prices of grain, and in seasons when the harvest proves an abundant one, and the collections are high, the evils resulting from

Fluctuation of prices.

Vide para. 113 of Revenue Report of Collector of Ahmednugger for 1847-48, No. 1989 of 11th November 1848.

a contracted market are apparent. Prices in such years sometimes fall so low, that a ryot who is called upon to pay an instalment of rent, and has nothing but the produce of the season wherewith to enable him to meet the demand, is compelled to dispose of his grain at an immense sacrifice, and has little chance of recovery from the state of poverty to which he is reduced in consequence.

Railway.

50. The author of the pamphlet entitled "Railways for Bombay," forwarded for the information of this Department with the Revenue Commissioners Memorandum No. 2499 of 6th June last, forcibly points out the advantages which might be expected to result to the country from the early establishment of railroads, and I do not think that the picture he has drawn is at all exaggerated. It is not, however, to be expected that the benefits of railroads will be fully ascertained and appreciated until the Ghauts have been surmounted and a line carried into the interior. None of the elements of success for such a scheme appear to me to be wanting. The productions of India are various and valuable, the soil is generally fertile, the cultivators are shrewd, industrious, and most ready to take advantage of any practical scheme by which their condition will be improved, and the numerous merchants and Marwarees to be met with everywhere would be the means of carrying traffic even into the most remote parts. The capital of the country would be increased by the facilities afforded for the transport of cotton, opium, and other produce for which there is a demand in foreign markets, the trade in which would consequently be extended; and as increased internal traffic would bring into use much capital now unemployed, and would cause money to circulate with much more rapidity, and through more legitimate channels than at present, steadier prices and higher profits would be ensured, and the effects, both on the prosperity of the people and on the Government revenue, would, without doubt, be most beneficial.

Advantages of proposed line to Rahooree.

51. The proposed line from Bombay to Alleh and thence towards Candeish and Indore would pass within fifteen or twenty miles of the Rahooree talooka; and should it be carried out at an

early period, the prospects of the district will be very much improved. The great staple is wheat. Regarding this crop, Mr. Davidson, in his 8th paragraph, offers many interesting remarks, and I have no doubt that it could be cultivated to a much greater extent than at present. Gram, flax, and tobacco might also be produced in considerable quantities. Sheep, as will be seen from Mr. Davidson's 13th paragraph, are also exported and find a sale in Bombay; but I am of opinion that the district, viewed either with respect to climate or grazing grounds, is not well adapted for the rearing of sheep, and this trade has probably been resorted to principally on account of the difficulty experienced in disposing of the agricultural produce. The opening out of markets would be the means of encouraging the cultivation of other produce, but wheat must continue the staple for some time, and on the prices realized for this crop the profits of the cultivators will mainly depend.

Cart Road.

52. In his concluding paragraph, Mr. Davidson alludes to the bad state of the main road which passes through Rahooree. A cart road has already been constructed from the town of Nuggur to the bottom of the Nimbadhéra Ghaut, and were this road put in a good state of repair, and the line continued through the district towards Nassick and Malligaum, I am of opinion that the outlay would prove far from unprofitable. This line is only of inferior importance to that leading from Nuggur to Aurungabad, but at present the traffic is very much impeded by the obstacles presented to the transport of goods.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. S. A. ANDERSON,

Superintendent, Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey and Assessment.

Superintendent's Office, Ahmednuggur,
29th September 1849.

List of Government villages, coming into the 1st class, referred to in paragraph 32 of Report.

Number.	Name of Village.	Number.	Name of Village.
1	Hunmuntgaon	10	Tambhéra .....
2	Pathur Boodroog.....	11	Rampoor .....
3	Tandoolnair	12	Kungur Boodroog .....
4	Nimbéra	13	Kungur Khoord .....
5	Kanurgaon	14	Chinchveera .....
6	Kalsindeh	15	Kursindeh .....
7	Gogurgaon	16	Chinchaleh.....
8	Wudnair	17	Nandoor .....
9	Gunnehgaon		

List of Government villages, coming into the 2nd class, referred to in paragraph 32 of Report.

Number.	Name of Village.	Number.	Name of Village.
1	Kusba Rahooree	18	Sunkrapoor .....
2	Goola	19	Trimbuckpoor .....
3	Déswundee	20	Chinchoolee Boodroog. ..
4	Dewlalee	21	Chinchoolee Khoord ....
5	Toolapoor	22	Kolhar Boodroog.....
6	Veeludh	23	Futtiabad .....
7	Damooree Khoord	24	Digrus .....
8	Pimpree Ougud	25	Oomreh .....
9	Taklee	26	Kudambeh Boodroog ....
10	Rahooree Khoord	27	Kudambeh Khoord .....
11	Sudeh	28	Damooree Boodroog ....
12	Thandhoolwadee	29	Singweh. .....
13	Teelégaon	30	Esmalpoor .....
14	Arudgaon	31	Nimbadhéreh .....
15	Kondwud	32	Baboolgaon .....
16	Ambee	33	Wurwundee .....
17	Amhulnair		

List of Government villages, coming into the 3rd Class, referred to in paragraph 32 of Report.

Number.	Name of Village.	Number.	Name of Village.
1	Kendul Boodroog	27	Gondownee .....
2	Bamnee	28	Pudchgaon .....
3	Kendul Khoord	29	Shenwudgaon .....
4	Wullun	30	Ookulgaon .....
5	Chandkapoor	31	Pathur Khoord .....
6	Manjree	32	Nimbhgaon .....
7	Manoree Rénapoor	33	Chithlee .....
8	Seerchgaon	34	Bramungaon Band .....
9	Pimpree Wullun	35	Wangee Khoord .....
10	Kundalleh	36	Mahalgaon .....
11	Karéhgaon	37	Badéhgaon .....
12	Bélapoor Boodroog	38	Kheerdee .....
13	Ainutpoor	39	Wangee Boodroog .....
14	Teelapoor	40	Deghee .....
15	Oondeergaon	41	Rajooree .....
16	Maheegaon	42	Malonjeh Boodroog .....
17	Lak	43	Malonjeh Khoord .....
18	Dhurudgaon	44	Mumdapoor .....
19	Jatup	45	Ramjur Khol .....
20	Bramungaon Vétal	46	Julgadee .....
21	Kurrinjgaon	47	Nandoor Boodroog .....
22	Bélapoor Khoord	48	Gondéhgaon .....
23	Koopreh	49	Khairgaon .....
24	Koorseergaon	50	Bableshwur Boodrook ..
25	Pachéhgaon	51	Bableshwur Khoord ....
26	Gulnimbh		

List of Alienated villages, coming into the 2nd Class, referred to in paragraph 33 of Report.

Number.	Name of Village.	Number.	Name of Village.
1	Gungapoor	5	Pimpulgaon Phoongee ..
2	Koorunpoor	6	Kólhar Khoord. .....
3	Bugwutheepoor	7	Késapoor .....
4	Dowungaon		

List of Alienated villages, coming into the 3rd Class, referred to in paragraph 33 of Report.

No.	Name of Village.	No	Name of Village.
1	Lahogaon	7	Teesgaon .....
2	Ladgaon	8	Seerusgaon .....
3	Oombergaon.....	9	Kanehgaon .....
4	Berdahpoor	10	Nandoor Khoord.....
5	Chandchgaon	11	Wakree .....
6	Wulludgaon		

G. S. A. ANDERSON,
Superintendent Ahmednugger Revenue
Survey and Assessment.

Superintendent's Office, Ahmednuggur,
29th September 1849.

To GEORGE ANDERSON, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDENT AHMEDNUGGUR REVENUE SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT.

SIR,—On the completion of my operations in the Rahooree Talooka, I have the honour, in accordance with your letter, No. 42 of 1848, in which you request me to furnish you with a report of the subjects quoted in your 2nd para., to lay before you the following remarks:—

2. The district under report is the most centrally situated of any in the Zilla. It lies immediately to the North of the talooka of Ahmednuggur, from which it is separated by a range of hills. The talooka of Kurda bounds it on the South-West. On the West lies the talooka of Sungumnair; on the North the talooka of Sinnur in the sub-division, and Patoda. On the East, Newasah forms its boundary. It was constituted a separate talooka and mamlutdarship in the year 1837; until then, with the exception of

the Turriff Barra Gaum Nandoor, which was attached to Ahmednuggur, it formed part of Sungumnair. At Kusbés Rahooree and Behlapoor were Mahalkurree's stations, but these Mahalkurrees had no Foujdaree powers, Moolkee work alone being transacted by them. The talooka as it is now constituted contains 125 villages, 101 of which are Government, and 24 alienated. There were formerly 26 alienated villages; but of these, during the time the operations of the survey were going on, two lapsed to Government. The superficial area of the talooka is about 331,632 acres or 518·2 square miles, but some of the alienated villages and lands not having been surveyed by me, this statement may not be perfectly accurate, owing to the inequality of the beegah. The amount of acres of the Government villages is 268,762 and of the Jagheer villages that I have measured 63,770.

3. The general aspect of the district is flat, undulating slightly, and having a gradual ascent to the hills on the South, from which several solitary hills project a mile or two into the plain; and they form the only prominent objects in the district.

4. The district is very scantily wooded, indeed, with the exception of a few mangoe topes and tarmarind groves, chiefly at the villages on the banks of the rivers, and a few scattered trees in the garden land of some of the more favored villages, the face of the country is entirely destitute of trees. I have at all times made it my endeavour to impress on the minds of the ryots the advantages they would derive were they to bestow more attention and care on the cultivation and preservation of trees of every description, particularly the Babool, on account of its usefulness in the manufacture of their farming implements. I have induced many to collect the seed of the babool, and sow it on the strips forming the boundaries of their fields. With a little timely pruning, and protecting them from being cropped by the goats, these trees, in a few seasons, acquire sufficient stability to grow without requiring further attention. There are a few instances where young mangoe plantations have been lately formed, but these are now very rare; indeed, it has given me pain to observe many fine old topes rapidly falling to decay chiefly from want of care. I believe

in order to preserve a mangoe tree from the ravages of the white ants a maund of salt ought, at intervals of four or five years, to be mixed with the earth around its roots. If the application of salt to the trees could be by any means enforced on the proprietors of mangoe topes, the preservation, I have been frequently assured, of many noble topes would be ensured.

5. In point of climate there is no material difference from that of the surrounding districts that have been already reported on. My own observations, however, lead me to the conclusion that it enjoys in general a greater and more certain fall of rain than its immediately adjacent district Sungumnair, and for which I account thus. The talooka of Sungumnair lies in a valley between two ranges of hills which run parallel almost due East and West. The rain is attracted by the hills on either side and carried along these ranges to the deprivation of the villages situated in the valley. The Northern range terminates on the Western border of Rahoree, and the showers, having no longer the hills to attract and conduct their course, disperse across the plain. The hills on the South attract the light showers and passing thunder storms in the early part of the monsoon, and the villagers there situated enjoy the benefits of being enabled to prepare their land and sow their crops earlier than their neighbours of the plain, and throughout the monsoon the villages in that vicinity have more frequent and timely showers, but for which the crops and pasturage would often fail owing to the lightness and poverty of the soil.

Rivers.

6. This talooka is more favorably circumstanced than almost any other of those surrounding it in this respect. The two rivers, the Prowra and Moola, enter the district on the western border, and traverse its entire breadth, gradually approaching each other until they form a junction on the Eastern border. The united stream continues its course in a North Westerly direction for fifteen miles, when at the village of Toka in the Newasah Talooka it pours its waters into the Godavery or Gunga of the Deccan. The Deo Nuddee, a small tributary stream, takes its rise among the hills on the South,

and flows in a northerly direction, supplying in its course the wants of the villages that are situated on its banks, but the supply of water is at all times scanty. In the hot months it generally ceases to flow. The entire course, from its rise until it joins the Moola, is about fifteen miles. There is no irrigation derived from any of the rivers in the talooka, the banks of the Prowra and Moola being too high. At one place on the Prowra a bundara might be constructed, but the great breadth of the river bed, and consequently, the immense expense that would attend such an undertaking, precludes even the idea being seriously entertained, besides, in a dry season, the supply of water is not much to be depended on. The Prowa is highly esteemed as being particularly advantageous to the garden cultivation on its banks. It is the general opinion that it affords an unfailing supply of water to all the wells on either bank. The quality of the water, too, of this river is said to be much superior for all purposes owing to its lightness and sweetness.

Soil.

The prevailing description of soil in this district is the stiff, clayey, black Moonjal. This soil varies generally from the second to the third class. With a sufficiency of water it will bear abundant crops, but it requires a more than ordinary quantity of rain to make it produce good crops. Light showers have no effect, and it is not until several days of heavy rain that it becomes well soaked. When once thoroughly saturated, it retains the moisture much longer than any other soil, and is in consequence highly valued as land or every description of rubbee crop. Towards the hills and more elevated lands, the light and friable soils prevail; these are more adapted for the early crops such as bajree, moong, &c.

I have already mentioned in my 5th para. that the northern range of the Sungumnair hills terminates on the western border of this district, but in continuation, as it were, there is a narrow, slightly elevated ridge, extending across the northern part of the talooka into Newasah, declining on the south towards the Prowra and on the north towards the Godavery. Were this ridge situated at an equal distance from either river and equally elevated above

their beds, there would probably be a great similarity in the conformation of its two sides, as regards the nature of the soil and the facility of procuring water, but such is far from being the case. From the proximity of the Prowra to the ridge, and the river bed not being much below its level, consequently, the extent of barren land on the southern side is limited; being soon replaced by the black soil in the vicinity of the river; and the drainage being little, water is easily procurable. The wells are of a moderate depth and rarely fail, while from the greater distance of the Godavery and the depth of its bed, the belt of barren land on the northern side is much wider, water is more scarce, the wells are deeper, and generally dry up at the commencement of the hot season; as owing to the narrowness of the ridge itself there is little space for the accumulation of water for their permanent supply. These facts I would beg to bring to your notice as I deem it would be well to take them into consideration in finally assessing the villages, for, whether the soils be black and deep, or whether they be shallow and poor, still, on account of there being less rain towards the north, a greater drainage, and less opportunity for the soil to retain its moisture, the land of these villages is much less productive than that of the interior of the district.

Principal Crops grown.

8. The chief kurreef or early crop is bajree and it forms the staple crop of those villages that border on the hills in the south, and also of those that are situated in the north of the district, where the light soils prevail. In the plains, where the black soil predominates, it is grown in much less quantities; still every land-holder throughout the whole of the district grows sufficient for his home consumption. Bajree forms the principal food of the middling classes. The bread is more palatable and nutritious than that made from jowarree. Along with bajree are sown the usual oil plants. Among the other kurreef crops that are worthy of mention here are moong, tooree, mut, koodeet, ambadee and tobacco. Of these, the two latter are perhaps the most important and deserving of notice; ambadee is sown along with bajree, but as it is slower in its growth, it requires about a month more to attain perfection; when

the bajree is reaped it is left to ripen. From this most of the ropes for agricultural purposes are made. *Tobacco* requires a peculiar description of soil; where a river has overflown its banks and an alluvial deposit has been left, or where the ground has been merely flooded once or twice, are situations peculiarly well adapted for its cultivation. The plants are first reared in a nursery, in favourable situations, and when of sufficient size and stability are planted out in the field. One or two weedings only are necessary. At the time of the second weeding, the lower shoots are broken off, and when the plants attain their full stature, the top stems and blossoms are also broken off. This is all the labour that is in general bestowed on tobacco. On the northern bank of the Prowra, at the villages extending from Satral to Pudehgam, the cultivation of tobacco is carried on extensively and successfully. The river frequently overflowing the bank accounts for this fact.

Rubbee Crops.

Jowarree, in point of quantity grown, forms the principal late crop of the district. It is grown very extensively all over the talooka. When the season has been favourable, magnificent crops are realized from the black soil of the interior. All the poorer classes cultivate it, as little outlay is required for seed, and on account of its being so very prolific; besides, its straw far surpasses any other as fodder for cattle. Wheat, in point of quantity grown, next ranks with jowarree, and it is generally found to pay well. The whole of the soil of the interior of the district is eminently adapted for the growth of this valuable product. There has been a question lately mooted by Government with respect to the growth of wheat in the Deccan, and during my operations in the talooka I have gleaned a few facts regarding its growth which may be mentioned here—the chief causes why it is not more extensively grown, the diseases it is subject to, &c. The primary obstacle to the extensive cultivation of wheat, especially by the more indigent portion of the ryots, is the great consumption of grain required for seed. For one acre, 12 seers of seed are required; whereas, for Jowarree 3 seers are ample. At the commencement of the sowing season, the finances of the ryot are generally at a very low ebb, so that he cannot even

purchase the required seed at the bazaar price, and has no other resort left but to have recourse to the sowcars ; and to obtain the required quantity he has to submit to the extortionate demands of these people. Another obstacle is that this crop is a hazardous one—the evils attending it being great and numerous. The uncertainty of rain is a great hindrance, as the outlay for seed is considerable ; and, its loss would be severely felt by the cultivator, but he in general does not risk so much in this respect as he would with other crops, it being a late one. Unless a plentiful supply of rain has previously fallen he very rarely sows his seed, as it is the quantity of rain that has fallen, prior to the committing the seed to the ground, on which the success of the crop chiefly depends. Too much after rain is looked upon as one of the evils attending this crop. Occasional showers. while it is in its infancy, will be advantageous and improve it; but should a heavy fall of rain occur after the wheat has come into ear, the crop is greatly injured, in some instances entirely ruined. This rain generates a disease called Tambhara, which at a mere cursory glance would not be distinguishable, as the crop to all appearance looks healthy and improved by the rain, it grows more luxuriantly and attains a great height, but on minute observation it will be discovered that partial decomposition has taken place and the grain is found to be covered with a reddish powder. This disease is easily detected by merely walking through the standing crop, as the red powder will be found adhering to the person's clothes. Another disease wheat has a tendency to is what is termed Gheera or Kheira. This is of less prevalence than the former one I mentioned. An over abundance of rain is likewise the cause of this.—In appearance it is similar to Tambhara, but instead of attacking the whole of the field it confines its ravages to parts and is generally observed in circles at distances from each other. The inferiority of the straw of wheat as fodder for cattle is also taken into consideration by the ryot. Wheaten straw is deemed by, many to be injurious to cattle; it is considered very heating food and if cattle be fed on it exclusively it will produce diarrhœa and in some instances cause death. The only way the straw can be used as food for cattle is by chopping it up and mixing it, thus

cut up, in small quantities, with the other productions of the farm-yard. Great care and vigilance have to be preserved after the grain has been reaped and stacked. While in the stack it is liable to become discoloured. If the least fermentation takes place the grain loses its fine white appearance, and its sale is in consequence much affected. These are the most prominent obstacles that attend the growth of wheat, and in many instances hinder its being more extensively cultivated in a district where the soil is so admirably fitted for its growth. Should, however, these obstacles be overcome, the advantages that follow are by no means insignificant. Wheat at all times meets with a ready market, and a good price is the reward of the diligent and self-denying koonbees The average produce of an acre from jeerayet cultivation is 288 Ahmednuggur seers, in bhagaeet 480 seers. In jeerayet, when sufficient rain beforehand has permitted manure to be applied, and the ground to be thoroughly prepared, 500 seers may be realized. The grain produced from bhagaeet land is much inferior to that produced on jeerayet. The oil plant kurdie is sown along with wheat generally, and grows abundantly throughout all the interior of the district. It is the principal oil plant of the district. It is also esteemed highly as a grain on which to fatten sheep. The bulk of this grain that is grown to the south of the Moola is disposed of to the oil manufacturers at Wambooree. Gram is grown in considerable quantities throughout the greater part of the district. Plentiful crops are realized from the black soil of the interior. These are the only crops of the Rubbee that are worthy of notice.

The Rotation of Crops.

9. This is a subject which allows of a considerable difference of opinion, but the general rule practised in the district is (as far as I have been able to learn) the following;—Supposing the field that is to be cultivated has been uncultivated, say for four or five years, and the soil is the black stiff soil I have so frequently alluded to as the prevailing soil of the district, in the first instance it is ploughed, and cross ploughed, by the large six or eight-bullock plough. The large clods are then broken by the use of the pallee, and when the surface is sufficiently levelled with this implement,

it is ready to receive the grain. Gram is then sown as the first crop. The following year the pallee alone is used to clear out any weeds that may have taken root, and to loosen the surface; this is done twice, and this constitutes all the preparation and labour that is bestowed on the field in the second year. Then wheat is sown in proportion to the means of the cultivator, the remainder is sown in jowarree. Two more crops of jowarree in the succeeding seasons are taken, when the field requires another term of rest, and so on.

10. *Manure* is scarcely used except in the garden land at some of the larger villages, such as Rahoooree and Behlapoor, and in consequence little care is taken to collect or preserve it. It is hardly ever applied to dry crops, the fall of rain being too precarious to allow of it, as in the event of the quantity of rain being insufficient to counteract its heating properties, the crops would be burnt up.

Value of *land* as affected by distance from the village and water.

11. A cursory glance at the village maps of the district will at once convince you that a part of the lands of almost every village has the disadvantage of being at a very considerable distance both from the village and water; the villages being situated on the banks of the river, in close vicinity to each other, the lands must necessarily run inland in the form of narrow strips. This disadvantage is certainly one that ought not to be overlooked in the assessment, but to how great a degree to estimate this inconvenience, I have not quite determined. Those who cultivate the fields farthest removed from water, labour under much more disadvantage than those close at hand; still, where fields are further from the village sites, they have the advantage of being less subject to the depredations of straying cattle, and of hukdars and other applicants for grain in the green ear, the demand for which is much greater in the vicinity of the villages than further off.

Means and *Modes* of Irrigation.

12. In my 6th paragraph on the rivers of the talooka, I have mentioned that there is no irrigation derived from them. The only garden land in the district is that irrigated from wells. There are

a few tanks, but from none of them is there any garden cultivation directly irrigated. The wells in the neighbourhood, that are immediately below their level, are however supplied by the water percolating through the soil. Garden land, therefore, in the vicinity of a tank, possesses advantages which it otherwise would not have except on the immediate banks of a river.

Working Cattle and other live stock, &c.

13. To supply wants arising from time to time, the farmer has recourse to the large cattle Bazaars at Walkee, in the Ahmednuggur Talooka, Garehgaon and Kookaneh in Newasah. From any of these places working cattle can, throughout the year, be procured, but the farmer very frequently manages to keep up the stock of working cattle from those of his own rearing. In the months of October and November, large droves of cattle come down from Khandeish and Malwa; but these are of a superior breed and description, and generally too high priced to be available for the purposes of the poor Koonbee. This particular breed is called "Hunnum," and the bullocks are well adapted to supply the Government gun batteries, or any other description of work where strength and speed are required. They can generally be bought for from Rs. 50 to 80 per pair, according to their age and appearance. For the ordinary purposes of the farmer there are three sorts and priced accordingly. The highest Rs. 40, the second Rs. 30, and the third Rs. 20. Bullocks that are bought at these prices are expected to be serviceable for eight or ten years.

Sheep.

The rearing of this useful and invaluable animal forms the occupation and livelihood of a large class of men called Dungurs. Two or three families are generally to be found in every village, some having large flocks of their own; others, who have none, go out as hired servants to tend sheep. One man is entrusted with the care of from 100 to 140 sheep and the Dungurs are remunerated as follows. If hired by the year, they receive as wages Rs. 18 to 20, their food, and clothing. Sheep are a very profitable stock, Ahmednuggur or Poona being at all times a ready market at

which the overplus can be disposed of, but those who have extensive flocks send a yearly supply to the Bombay Market, where a good sheep will realise from Rs. 4. to 6. The wool is disposed of to the felt or Numda makers, and the Dungurs themselves manufacture from it the common country blanket or cumblee. In conversing personally with some of the extensive graziers, I found them anxious to have their breed of sheep improved by the introduction of some of the rams from the Government sheep farm. This, I think, could be arranged without much inconvenience to Government, and to the ultimate good of both parties Should such a proposition be approved of by Government, I will at any time be happy to furnish further information on the subject.

Rates of labour, and how paid—in grain or money.

14. There is no definite rule by which labourers are compensated—some people paying according to their rank and means; but, as a general average rule, the following is that observed as near as I have been able to ascertain, and I have endeavoured to arrive at the truth as far as I possibly could, by personally questioning farmers and other agricultural land-holders, regarding the manner in which they remunerated their servants and agricultural labourers, both male and female.—A young, able-bodied man, who is hired by the year and is to be employed in the general work of the farmer, is compensated thus: In cash he receives the sum of Rupees; from 15 to 20; he is found in food; and, as clothing he gets as follows: one turban, one cumblee, a dhotur, two rumals and a pair of shoes, value in all about Rs. 5. Women are commonly employed during the harvest time in reaping. They are paid in grain; for every hundred bundles they cut, they receive, if bajree and jowaree, three, and if employed in reaping wheat, they get five per cent.

Manner in which money and other transactions are conducted between the cultivator and Native merchant. Rates of interest, &c.

Women are also employed in breaking off the heads of grain from the stalks, preparatory to its being thrashed, and for every hundred heads of corn they receive two seers of grain. Money payments are very rare, but if practised, men are paid 1½ annas and women one anna per diem.

15. The cultivator, in almost every transaction where money is concerned, has recourse to the village *Sowcar*. Through him generally are all his financial affairs conducted. If the affairs of the Koonbee are at all thriving, he experiences little difficulty in obtaining from the Sowcar any advance either of money or of grain for seed. In years when the cultivator has been under the necessity of selling off all his grain and has not sufficient left for seed, the Wanee supplies the required quantity, after an agreement has been entered into for fourfold repayment when the grain has been reaped. In lending money, the Sowcar narrowly considers the condition and well-being of the borrower; should he be possessed of property, which, in the event of his failing to repay or fulfil his engagement, could be confiscated, he is subjected to much easier terms; but, if on the contrary, he is in poor circumstances, he has to submit to the Sowcar's own terms, which are in most cases hard enough, and generally the following:—Supposing he wishes to borrow Rs. 50, he has to write a receipt as having received the full amount Rs 50, but he actually only receives Rs. 45. The money-lender deducts 10 per cent. as *Munotee*, and agrees to take two pice per Rupee or 2½ per cent. as monthly interest, amounting in the year to Rs. 15, and in the event of the principal and interest not being paid at the expiry of the twelve months, a fresh receipt for the united sum of Rs. 65 is given by the unhappy borrower, and in this manner does the sum go on increasing until his entire means become engulphed, and he is then a mere tool in the merciless hands of the money-lender.

16, At Wambooree there are a few silk spinners, but the silk manufactured is of a very inferior quality. Women's coloured sarees are made there and at Rahooree, Behlapoor, and Kolhar, but not in sufficient quantities to supply the demand in the district. *Cloth* for dhoturs is manufactured at the larger villages, but in small quantities only. The raw material for these cloths is brought chiefly from Wurrud in

The manufactures in the talooka are of a very insignificant nature.

the Northern Provinces, but a considerable quantity is brought from Sholapoor *viá* Nuggur.

Market Towns.

17. At Kusbés Rahooree, Behlapoor, and Wambooree, and at Mozé Panchegom, weekly bazaars are held. At these, cloths, spices, &c., comprising all the common necessaries, are offered for sale, and are brought principally by itinerant merchants, who attend the several bazaars as they are held. Grain is not brought in any great quantities—merely sufficient for conversion into money to supply the immediate wants of the farmer. At Rahooree, Behlapoor, and Wambooree, reside the merchants and wanees, who buy up the greater part of the grain grown in the district, and convey it to Nuggur, Poona and Bombay. At Wambooree, in particular, a great number of wanees reside, either as merchants on their own account, or as agents for others in Poona and Bombay, and by them the greater part of the grain grown in the surrounding districts is purchased.

Roads.

18. The high road from Poona and Nuggur to Mallegaum Dhoolia, and Mhow, passes through the centre of the district from south to north, and notwithstanding the great traffic that is constantly going along it, there are no steps taken for its repair, and it is consequently in a very bad state. At times during the Monsoon it is almost impassable. The greater part of the grain grown in the district and Sungumnair, and also that from the banks of the Godavery, passes along this road to the Poona market. The principal road from Nuggur to Nassick also passes through this district and enormous quantities of timber, chiefly teak wood, from the Northern Concan, for the supply of Nuggur and Poona, are conveyed along this road. Were some attention bestowed on the main road through the district, so that even a good dry-weather cartroad be kept up, Government, in my opinion, would have, in a short time, no room left to regret the necessary outlay, and the boon to the cultivators of this and the neighbouring districts would be greatly appreciated. I need scarcely add that the ryots are, one and all of them, anxious-

ly looking forward to the introduction of the survey rates, and I would humbly express a hope that they may soon be in the enjoyment of them.

I have the honour to be, &c,
(Signed) A. F. DAVIDSON,
Assistant Superintendent Revenue Survey.
(True Copy)
G. S. A. ANDERSON,
Superintendent Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey and Assessment.

Camp, Amilneir,
November 1848.

No. 244 of 1849.

To
E. H. TOWNSEND, Esquire,
Revenue Commissioner, S.D.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 10th instant, of your letter No. 4353, dated 29th ultimo, forwarding for any remarks that may occur to me, the original report herewith returned, by the Superintendent Ahmednuggur Survey, proposing rates of Assessment for the Rahooree Talook of that Zilla.

2. I shall not attempt to review Lieutenant Anderson's arguments at any length, as this would swell the correspondence unnecessarily, for they could not well be more clearly stated than in his own words. Another reason for this course is, that Lieutenant Anderson and myself have already corresponded, privately, on the subject of this report, as alluded to in his 26th para. and, under these circumstances, I think it will suffice, if, on the present occasion, I state briefly my full concurrence in all his proposals.

3. The general map of all the Surveyed Talooks, and that of Rahooree, prefacing the report, give a clear idea of the position of the latter district, and lead me to adopt the view of its climate taken by Lieutenant Anderson in his 14th para., rather than that given by Mr. Davidson in the 5th para. of his letter.

4. The statements of both officers, derived from personal observation, and the information afforded by the diagram No. 3, illustrative of our past revenue management of the district, afford unquestionable evidence of the excessive burden of the old assessment, and the necessity of a liberal reduction. The position of Rahooree with reference to the adjoining talooks of Sungumnair and Patoda, requires that the new rates should closely assimilate to those fixed for these districts, on the supposition of the latter having proved suitable. In the case of Sungumnair, from the short time the settlement has been in operation, this cannot be proved; but from the very instructive diagram, No. 4, opposite the 28th para. of Lieutenant Anderson's report, the Patoda assessment is shown to have been eminently successful, and in the other surveyed talooks a like success has resulted from the introduction of the revised assessment.

5. Lieutenant Anderson has adopted the Patoda rates for his third class of villages adjoining that district, and raised the rates of the other two classes towards Sungumnair, the rates of his first class being the same as those of the adjoining villages of the latter district. This adjustment of the rates appears to me every way appropriate, and I think the experience we have had of the results of the assessment in the surveyed districts, warrants us in anticipating a like success for the rates proposed for Rahooree. The reduction they will effect, as explained in the 34th para. of Lieutenant Anderson's report, is by no means excessive, and I fully acquiesce in the justice of his observation, in the same para., that "higher rates could not be imposed without endangering the success of the Settlement." Neither do financial considerations indicate any advantage to be derived from the adoption of a higher standard; for the prospect as regards revenue, held out in Lieutenant Anderson's 39th and following paras., is as favourable as could be desired.

6. The observations, in Lieutenant Anderson's 37th and 38th paras. on the garden assessment appear to me just, and I am of opinion that the maximum rate of three rupees per acre, which he has

proposed, is quite sufficient for the well cultivation of Rahooree, which appears to be nearly confined to the growth of wheat and gram crops, which are quite incapable of bearing a high assessment.

7. Lieutenant Anderson concludes his report with some very interesting observations on the causes of the poverty of the cultivating classes, in most of which I concur. I am inclined to doubt, however, whether there is any real foundation for the generally received opinion that the climate of this part of India has deteriorated, and that the fall of rain is not now so regular nor so plentiful as it formerly used to be. I can see no sufficient reason for such a result, and a long course of accurate observation would be required to establish the fact. The crops now raised are undoubtedly less abundant than they were formerly, but this I think is sufficiently accounted for by the greater poverty of the ryots and the absence of remunerative prices to stimulate their industry, without requiring the hypothesis of a deteriorated climate.

8. I think also that the great fluctuation of prices and their extreme depression in abundant seasons, which have borne so severely on the resources of the ryots, were the consequences of a heavy assessment, collected by quickly following instalments, even more than of a contracted market. The assessment was always too heavy to be defrayed in full, but in a good season the remissions given were of less amount and the demand on the ryot consequently greater than in less favourable years. He was, in consequence, obliged to bring forward to market a larger amount of produce than in ordinary seasons to meet this additional demand, and by thus forcing sales prices were lowered, and more and more produce had to be sold in order to raise the money he required to meet the extra demand made upon him by Government, until the market became so glutted and prices so ruinously low, that we can easily imagine a very abundant crop to have been a misfortune rather than an advantage.

9, Under the revised assessment and with longer time allowed for the collection of the instalments, the case will be different. The Government demand being limited to a moderate assessment capable of being paid in ordinary seasons, will not rise in a year

of plenty. The ryot will not be under the necessity of forcing his produce on the market to anything like the same extent as under the old heavy assessment, and we may therefore anticipate that prices will be subject to less fluctuation and not fall so ruinously low in abundant seasons hereafter. The same reasoning leads me to fear that the unprecedented collections of the last year, entered in Lieutenant Anderson's diagram, must have greatly impoverished the district, and induces me to urge the great importance of an immediate sanction being accorded to his proposals, to admit of the introduction of the new settlement at next Jummabundy.

10. The importance of affording additional facilities for the disposal of the produce of an inland district like Rahooree, is well shown by Lieutenant Anderson, and I would strongly urge the advantage of at once placing a sum at the disposal of the Collector for the improvement of the Nimbadhera Ghaut, mentioned in his 52nd para., so as to make it easily passable by carts, as the traffic upon this line seems to be very important, while the made road from Nuggur, strange enough, has been terminated just short of the Ghaut, where, of all places, it would seem to be most wanted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. WINGATE,

Superintendent Revenue Survey and Assessment,
Southern Maratha Country.

Superintendent's Office Belgaon Districts, Camp Badghee, Baghulkote Talook, 15th December 1849.

108454

No. 2018 of 1850.

Territorial Department, Revenue.

To

E. H. TOWNSEND, Esq.,

Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division.

Sir,—I have laid before the Right Honourable the Governor in Council your letter of 2nd ultimo and its accompaniments, relative to the revised assessment of the lands in the Rahooree Talooka of the Ahmednuggur Collectorate.

2. His Lordship in Council has directed me to notice, in terms of commendation, Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's excellent report.

3. The Maps Nos. 1 and 2, are, in his opinion, beautifully planned and executed. The novel and ingenious diagram, No. 4, facing para. 28, is of the greatest possible assistance to Government, in judging of the working of the revised assessment in the five districts of Chandore, Wun Dindooree, Sinnur, Nassick, and Patoda. They enable Government to obtain at a glance all the useful information which could be gleaned after hours' examination of lengthy statements.

4. His Lordship in Council observes, however, that Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson has not given the dark line which he states in para. 28 has been carried horizontally across the whole diagram to show the excess of collections in 1847-48. The diagram will therefore be returned to him for the purpose in the course of a few days, and His Lordship in Council is of opinion that it would be as well were Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson at the same time that he supplies the omission above alluded to, to show for each district the total number of arable acres assessed at the sum exhibited by the blue column.

5. The copies Government send the Honorable Court of the Survey Maps and Diagrams do not do justice to the Superintendents and their draftsmen; in the present instance, and

for the future, therefore, two (2) copies, besides the one sent for the records of Government, are to be furnished, of all maps and diagrams. His Lordship in Council has, however, directed me to lighten, in future, the labours of the Superintendent and Local Officers, by having made in my office copies of the reports themselves and figured statements for your own records and those of the Collector and Assistant Collector.

6. The proposed rates are sanctioned for one year, and if a satisfactory reply be received to the reference made in para. 9 of present letter they will be sanctioned for thirty years. His Lordship in Council fully agrees with Lieutenant Anderson and Captain Wingate in thinking the rates are not too low. Their operation must be carefully watched lest they prove too high. For the reasons given by Captain Wingate, in para 9, they should be introduced forthwith, and any over-collections which have been made for the current year's revenue given back by the Assistant Collector into the hands of the Ryots.

8. In para. 40 of Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's Report there is the following passage:—

> "The assessment of pasture and grazing farms is absorbed in the Survey Kumal."

With reference to this and Rules 14, 15, and 16 of the three Superintendents' joint Report, Lieutt. G. S. A. Anderson is to report whether Government are right in assuming that he means the assessment on arable lands has been entered in the Survey Statement at the amount leviable were they cultivated, and consequently that nothing is to be added to that Kumal on account of such portions of the land as may be left uncultivated and sold for grazing purposes, although additions are to be made on account of the proceeds for grazing or unarable wastes.

9. Mr. Davidson's 9th para. has led Government to direct me to request that you will instruct the Collector carefully to impress on the minds of the ryots that no portion of the assessment fixed on "a number" will be remitted in consequence of a part of

it having been allowed to remain at rest. If Mr. Davidson be right in stating that the lands require rest for 4 or 5 years after four year's cultivation, His Lordship in Council is surprised that the fact was not noticed by the Superintendent or Collector. The information given by Mr. Davidson renders necessary Government should be informed, 1st, as to the size of the numbers into which the lands were divided; 2ndly, as to the probable effect of the warning the Collector is to give the Ryots, as suggested at commencement of this para.; 3rdly, whether the boundaries of the several numbers have been defined by marks not likely to become obliterated or to be removed without detection, when the land is left waste.

11. Paras 4 and 8 of Mr. Davidson's interesting paper will be sent to Doctor Gibson.

12. Paras. 13 and 52 of Lieutenant Anderson's Report; para. 18 of Mr. Davidson's para. 12 of the Collector's; para. 10 of Captain Wingate's; and para. 10 of your letter will be transmitted to the General Department in order that the subject which is of the greatest importance possible to the interests of districts, may be brought to the early and special notice of His Lordship in Council.

13. Copies of your letter, and of the two letters to your address from Captain Wingate, and of this reply will be sent direct to the Collector and Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson.

I have, &c.,

H. E. GOLDSMID,

Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 15th March 1850.

NOTE.—The letters of the Collector of Ahmednuggur and Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, handing on Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's report referred to, are not inserted, that Officer's proposals having been generally approved of by them and recommended to Government for sanction.

No. 133 of 1850.

To RICHARD SPOONER, Esq.,

Collector, Ahmednuggur.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit a report on the Revenue Settlement of the Rahooree Talooka, made by me for the past official year; the introduction of the revised rates of assessment having been effected in accordance with the sanction conveyed in Government letter to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, dated 15th March 1850, No. 2018.

Rahooree Talooka Revenue Report for 1849-50.*

2. In paragraph 6 of the letter alluded to, it is notified that the rates are sanctioned for one year, and that, should satisfactory replies be received by Government to the references made in paragraph 9 of the same communication, they will be sanctioned for the usual term of 30 years. I shall therefore take advantage of this opportunity to discuss the questions forming the subjects of reference; but, before proceeding to do so, I propose to show the results of the revised assessment on the revenue of the year, and mention the manner in which the settlement was introduced.

3. I proceeded to the district on the 8th of April, and the settlement was not entirely completed till the beginning of June. Several causes combined to detain me a longer time at the Jummabundy of this talooka, than would probably be required under ordinary circumstances. Rahooree was the first district for which I had proposed new rates, and I was of course very desirous to ascertain, without any fear of mistake, the true opinions entertained generally by the Ryots with respect to them, and not having been beforehand stationed in the Talooka for a long period, I was necessarily compelled to act with great care and caution, otherwise I should have been liable to be imposed upon. The work of introducing a settlement is also, of itself, a laborious operation; the European Officers employed on the occasion being expected personally to make every cultivator acquainted with the amount of assessment fixed on each field held by him, to settle all disputes regarding land, and to explain fully to the local officers the manner

in which the system should be worked out. These important objects cannot be effected if the work be done hurriedly, and as I had not previously enjoyed many favourable opportunities of acquiring a perfect knowledge of revenue matters, and as an enlarged experience is essentially required for the formation of an unerring judgment on important subjects embracing many intricate details, I found that I had not only to supply information to others, but also, on some points, from a consideration of the facts brought before me during the time of settlement, to impart instruction to myself. I trust, however, that my proceedings will meet with your approval, and that the results of the settlement will be considered satisfactory. I shall first notice the effects of the new assessment on the year's revenue.

4. As explained in previous reports, it is customary, in the year during which the change from the old to the new system is effected, "to give the cultivators the benefit of the usual reductions on account of the portions of their fields left uncultivated, and in the case of failure of crops to allow them the advantage of such remission as would have been granted had the old system remained in force." It is also necessary where the new exceeds the old assessment, to remit the difference, as it is I believe almost invariably found, in cases where the old assessment was too low, and the custom of giving large remissions obtained, that the ryots were induced to hold more land than they possessed the means of cultivating properly, and it would, therefore, not be expedient to exact the full assessment from such lands, without in the first place giving the cultivators an opportunity of contracting the size of their farms, and of adjusting their liabilities according to the amount of their capital and farming stock.

Vide Para. 9 of my predecessor's Report on Patoda, No. 28, of 4th October 1847.

5. During the year of settlement, remissions according to the old system were called for to a considerable extent. The Ryots had, hitherto, been allowed to take up portions of fields for cultivation, and the Survey rates could not, therefore, invariably be applied to entire "Numbers", but, in cases of interior waste,

only to those portions actually taken up for cultivation. The amount of remissions required to be granted on this account was considerable. Remissions on account of failure of crops had also to be given, but to a much more limited extent. The fall of rain during the months of July, August, September, and October was so unusually abundant that the Khureef crops sustained much damage, and the Rubbee crops also suffered, not so much from the excess of moisture affecting injuriously the vegetation or lessening the yield of those plants arriving at maturity, as from the Ryots not having been able, in consequence of the extremely muddy condition of the black soil, to prepare the ground beforehand for the reception of the seed with that degree of care which is required for the realization of a good crop, and also to their being unable to clear their fields of the large proportion of weeds produced by the heavy and continuous fall of rain.

6. The aggregate area of the fields belonging to Government, wholly or partially cultivated, during the year, in the talooka, amounted to 73,019 acres and 10 goontas, and the results of the settlement with regard to the year's revenue are as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Estimated land revenue....	53,953	15	7
Deduct.			
On account of interior waste of fields (15,103 acres,)	9,771	4	7
On account of remissions for failure of Crops	2,265	3	5
Remissions on account of poverty, desertion, and deaths	126	15	10
On account of loss by fire	14	11	0
On account of the new exceeding the old rates	309	13	1
Total Remissions..	12,487	15	11
Balance collected .. Rupees	41,465	15	8

7. For the three years ending in 1847-48, the extent of land under cultivation amounted to about 77,000 acres, and probably,

as has hitherto been the case in other districts for the years immediately preceding the survey settlements, a still greater extent of land would have been taken up for cultivation by the ryots, or at least the cultivation would not subsequently have decreased to any great extent; but the ryots of this already exhausted talooka were reduced to a still more miserable and impoverished condition by the oppressiveness of the exorbitant collections of 1847-48, and the seasons of 1848-49 and 1849-50, also, not proving favourable, there was a decrease of cultivation in 1848-49 amounting to about 17,000 acres; and in 1849-50, the year of settlement, the extent of land actually under cultivation only amounted to 57,916 acres and 10 goontas. These facts, combined with the circumstances stated in my 4th paragraph, sufficiently account for the lowness of the collections in the past official year.

8. The following Statements of similar form to those given in former reports exhibit the general financial results of the settlement:—

Statement No. 1.

Former Kumal or maximum demand on entire arable land	Rs.	2,71,808	0 11
New or Survey Kumal		1,27,847	14 3
Decrease on former Kumal..		1,43,960	2 8
		or 52·96 per cent.	

Statement No. 2.

Average collections since we have possessed the country		59,952	0 0
New or Survey Kumal		1,27,847	14 3
Prospective increase on former collections, supposing all the arable land to be brought under tillage		67,895	14 3
		or 113·25 per cent.	

Statement No. 3.

Collections for 1848-49, or last year of old rates	52,888	12	0
Collections for 1849-50, or first year of Survey rates	41,465	15	8
Decrease..	11,422	12	4
or 21·59 per cent.			

Statement No. 4.

Average of past collections	59,952	0	0
Collections for 1849-50, or first year of Survey rates	41,465	15	8
Decrease..	18,486	0	4
or 30·83 per cent.			

Statement No. 5.

Estimated collections for 1849-50, supposing the settlement to have been made on the old rates	61,442	8	10
Collections on Survey rates	41,465	15	8
Decrease..	19,976	9	2
or 32·51 per cent			

9. From the first Statement little useful information is to be gleaned. The very large amount of the former Kumal, (2,71,808 Rupees) contrasted with the smallness of the past average collections, (59,952 Rupees) affords a striking proof of the folly of attempting to exact more revenue from a district than it can possibly manage to pay, and gives cause for hope that the much more moderate maximum Survey demand (1,27,847 Rupees) merits, and will meet with more success. From the second Statement it will be observed that, provided the Survey rates prove successful,

a very large increase of revenue will be the result. In paragraph 41 of my Report, proposing a revised assessment for the district, I estimated that the revenue would ultimately range within Rs. 10,000 of the new Kumal, and a prolonged experience of the talooka does not leave on my mind the impression that this estimate is an exaggerated one. Should my anticipations, therefore, prove correct, the collections, after a sufficient period has elapsed to admit of the Ryots reviving from their present state of extreme depression, will about double those of former years. For the reasons stated in my 7th paragraph, I do not think that any just inferences can be drawn from the data contained in the 3rd and 4th Statements, nor can much weight be attached to the information embodied in the Statement No. 5, as during the year of settlement remissions were granted, whereas after the rates have been fairly introduced it is not contemplated that remissions will be called for except on urgent grounds and in seasons of unusual scarcity. In fact, the old and new systems are so entirely different that it appears to me to be impossible to give any information through the medium of figured Statements, by means of which a fair judgment can be formed by any one either of the immediate, or of the ultimate financial results of the settlement; and I have embodied these Statements in my report, not on account of my being of opinion that they contain useful information, but because it has hitherto been customary to give Statements of the sort in the reports regarding the Settlements of surveyed districts. It is sufficiently proved from experience that in a district like Rahooree, where the energies of the inhabitants have hitherto been deadened, and the accumulation of farming capital rendered impossible, by an oppressive system, and an exhorbitant taxation, the introduction of more enlightened and liberal measures not only tends to the prosperity of all classes, but also operates most favourably on the Government revenue.

No. 110, of 29th September 1849.

10. I may here allude to the leading points connected with the introduction of the new assessment. To enable him to proceed with the usual inspection of fields, the Mamlutdar had been

supplied, beforehand, with a copy of each village map, and with Statements containing the areas, in acres, of the several Survey "Numbers" of each village; but the new rates were not made known until the time of settlement. On my arrival in the district I visited several villages, conversed with the ryots, and made them acquainted with the objects I had in view in personally introducing the settlement, and I also endeavoured to instil into their minds a perfect confidence in my proceedings. Subsequently, the ryots of the several villages were summoned to attend my camp, and I explained to every ryot the amount of Survey Assessment fixed on each field held by him, and also, with my own hand, gave back the money over-collected previously to the Settlement. I also, with the assistance of the Mamlutdar, settled, according to the best of my judgment, all the disputes regarding land which were brought to my notice by the ryots themselves, and embodied the results of the settlements of the several villages in Mahrathee Registers (prepared according to annexed form) in which are also recorded the names of all holders of fields, and the amount of assessment leviable from each individual. I was also constantly in direct communication with the Rahooree ryots, and with the ryots of some neighbouring Sungumnair villages, regarding the suitableness of the new rates.

11. I shall now proceed to afford information on the points noticed in the Government letter authorizing the introduction of the rates, and in the first place, with reference to paragraph 8 of that letter, I beg to explain that, as surmised by Government, I omitted in para. 40 of my report to take into consideration the revenue derivable from lands on which no Survey Assessment has been placed. As this description of revenue has no reference to the Survey Kumal, and is not limited to any fixed sum, and as it is also liable to fluctuation according to circumstances, its probable amount cannot well be estimated, nor could it have been entered in the Statement embodied in paragraph 39 of my report: but the fact of this being the case should certainly have been noticed.

12. From inquiries made in the district during the time of Jummabundy, I have ascertained that Mr. Davidson's statement,

alluded to in paragraph 9 of the Government letter, namely, that the rich black soil lands of the district require a period of four or five years' rest, after four years' cultivation, is not correct. Under a proper system of tillage such lands can be continuously cultivated for 15 or 20 years, or even for a longer period. Some of the poor soils, on which a low assessment has been fixed, require a rest now and then, but certainly not to a greater extent than from one to two years in seven ; nor do such soils require a longer period of rest in Rahooree, than in other inland districts, where the ryots are not generally in the habit of manuring their lands. Shallow, poor soil lands are, I believe, in all parts of the country liable to exhaustion, if not improved by the application of manure, or by other artificial means, and a lower assessment is for that and other reasons fixed on them to place them on an equality with lands of deeper and richer soil more highly assessed.

13. In accordance with the instructions contained in the commencement of paragraph 9 of the Government letter, I informed the ryots that no portion of the assessment would, for the future, be remitted on account of any part of a "Number" left uncultivated, and with reference to the 2nd question relating to the subject put in the same paragraph, I beg to state that in cases where the ryots were actually cultivating portions of "Numbers" on which a larger amount of assessment was fixed than they thought they would be able conveniently to pay, they, during the time of Jummabundy, either threw up those "Numbers" and had their names entered in the Registers for others on which a lower assessment was fixed, or retained the "Numbers," entering into partnership with other ryots. After the new rates were fully explained to the ryots of a village, they were allowed a period of two or three days to talk over them, and they were then, a second time, assembled in my tent to enable them either to throw up old, or take up new fields, as best might suit their own wishes and their means of cultivation. I also adopted precautions to prevent the interference of the village officers, as the latter are apt to encourage the ryots to take up more land than they can

manage, and the consequence is that instead of benefiting by the new rates, the ryots only increase their liabilites without adding to their profits. At the same time, I strenously pointed out to the mamlutdar the manifold evils likely to result in such an impoverished district, from the slightest attempt, for the future, to encourage the ryots to cultivate beyond their strength, and the more so on account of my being impressed with a strong conviction that many ryots had hitherto held much more land than it was possible for them and their bullocks properly to till.

14. With regard to the first question contained in the paragraph of the Government letter above alluded to, relative to the size of the numbers into which the lands of the district are divided, I beg to state as follows. Enam holdings have been retained of their original size, each enam field being constituted a separate survey "Number." The measurers were also ordered to follow the same rule with regard to "Koorun," "Sheree," "Bagh," "Amraee," "Nudee Beta," or other lands, hitherto annually let by auction; but such lands are only found to a very limited extent in the Rahooree Talooka. I cannot discover that any orders were issued to the measurers with regard to the division of garden lands. So far as I can judge, however, from a general inspection of the "Numbers," I am inclined to believe that they all accord with the former holdings. The garden lands are entirely "Motusthul" and, as they are generally cultivated so as to allow of a rotation of wet and dry cropping, the land under a well forming a separate "Number" is, in most cases, partly irrigated and partly under dry-crop cultivation. The measurers were directed to break up Meeras and Gutkoolee holdings, when containing a larger proportion of arable land than is represented by the following areas.

40	Acres for	light,	dry crop soil
30	,,	Medium	,,
25	,,	Heavy	,,

There are, in all, about 148 "Numbers" in which barren land has been included to an extent so as to cause the "Numbers"

to exceed 40 acres in aggregate area. There are, also, in some villages, "Numbers" in which the arable acres exceed the regulated size, as shown in the following Statement.

Numbers in excess of the areas prescribed by the Rules.

Description of soil.	From 25 to 30 Acres.	From 30 to 40 Acres.	From 40 to 50 Acres.	Exceeding 50 Acres.	Total
	Of arable land				
Light	0	0	77	25	102
Medium	0	177	0	0	177
Heavy	103	0	0	0	103
Total....	103	177	77	25	382

It may be expedient to explain, with reference to the large size of the "Numbers" entered in the Statement, that in the Ahmednuggur Districts it is difficult for a measurer, in dividing the lands into "Numbers," to judge of the size of a field before he has measured it, and laid down the boundary marks; more especially so when the crops are standing, as the uncertain area of the Beegah—the old land measure—does not afford the means of framing a true estimate of the extent of a holding. It is also difficult for a measurer, in all cases, to judge accurately of the description of the soil, and I think that these causes sufficiently explain the large size of some of the numbers; but although I am of opinion that those numbers in excess of the regulated standard should have been re-divided at the time of classification, I do not think that it would be expedient to adopt any measures regarding them at the present time, as in the event of a new distribution of the "Numbers" being now made, the maps and Registers would be rendered unserviceable, and much confusion would result from any attempt to alter the succession of the Numbers. The average size of all the "Numbers"* in the talooka is 21 acres and 20 goontas and

* There are in all 13,108 Numbers on 12,786 of which an assessment has been fixed.

of the "Numbers" on which an assessment has been fixed 20 acres and 20 goontas, or deducting barren land, 17 acres and 7 goontas.

15. After mature consideration, I am of opinion that the manner in which the lands of the Rahooree talooka have been divided into numbers, warrants the sanction, permanently, of the revised assessment. The division of the lands has not been effected in strict accordance with the spirit of the rules embodied in paragraph 17 of the Survey joint Report—the district having been measured and classified before the publication of that document—but no alterations could, so far as I can judge, be effected, with advantage at the present time, and I am not aware of any practical inconvenience that will result from a few "Numbers" having been retained of a somewhat large size, as where the assessment of a "Number" exceeds Rs. 20, two or more ryots can take it up for cultivation according to No. 12 of the Survey Settlement rules.

16. I regret to report from the observations I had an opportunity of making at the time of Jummabundy, that the field boundary marks were not, then, by any means in so satisfactory a state as I could have wished. During the period of Survey, all the fields were, at once, defined by stones, and earthen ridges were subsequently constructed under the superintendence of the district hereditary officers, in cultivated lands by the holders of fields, and in waste and unarable lands by the Mahars of the several villages, acting under the orders of their Patels. In a few villages assistance was afforded by Government, to the extent of about Rupees 1,139 in all, but the utter inadequacy of this amount for the purpose of constructing good marks throughout the talooka, may be judged of from two facts—the first being that, last year, of the 2,81,597 acres comprised in the Government villages of the talooka, 1,79,717 acres were waste or unarable, and only 1,01,880 acres were under cultivation or belonging to enamdars, and the second that for the original construction of good boundary marks, an average expenditure of Rs. 1 for every 12 to 15 acres is required. Orders were given that earthen ridges should be constructed at the bends and corners of fields, and at intervals along the sides, of 5 or 6 chains, and that they should be of the following dimensions.

24 feet in length,
3 „ in height,
4½ „ in breadth at bottom;

but from what I have seen of the marks I should think that they were not always actually constructed of the full size, although on this point it is now impossible for me to offer an unqualified opinion, as most of the marks were constructed three or four years ago, and, unless subsequently kept in a proper state of repair, they would, owing to the nature of the soil of the district, decrease much from their original dimensions within the period mentioned. I may observe, that, so far as my own observation enables me to judge, I consider the state of the Field boundary marks of waste lands, generally, throughout the Surveyed districts, to be unsatisfactory, and I intend to bring the subject to your notice in a separate communication.

17. I do not think that any blame attaches to the present Mamlutdar, Bhaskur Govind; indeed, from inquiries made in the district, I am convinced that he has made great exertions to put the boundary marks in a proper state of repair, and that he has not been entirely successful is attributable to circumstances beyond his control, amongst the principal of which are the smallness of the population, and the very large proportion of waste and unarable lands in the district. Besides it is always very difficult to induce the ryots, after the completion of the survey of a district, to construct ridges of larger dimensions than those originally erected,

18. During the time of Jummabundy, and subsequently, the boundary marks have been repaired, so far as was possible, but about 15,800 ridges are still unrepaired, and the Mamlutdar reports that a sum of Rs. 1,038 will be required for the purpose of repairing them. As the sum appears to me under all the circumstances to be very moderate (and, indeed, I am in doubt whether it will suffice for the purpose of putting all the remaining unrepaired ridges in a good state of repair), I would solicit an immediate sanction to the expenditure, which should, I conceive, be effected according to instructions given to the Mamlutdar by the Assistant

Collector, the latter Officer, if necessary, communicating with me as to the best means of securing the object desired.

19. If the rates are declared to be permanent for a period of 30 years, the Ryots will the more willingly set about the repair of the boundary marks for the ensuing year. On this ground therefore, I would beg strongly to urge the early settlement of the question.

20. With regard to my own opinion of the suitableness of the revised assessment for the district of Rahooree, I beg respectfully to state that it has not been in the slightest degree altered from a more intimate acquaintance of the district; and all the facts stated in my Report proposing the rates, still, in my estimation, hold good. The ryots, themselves, are the best judges of the justness, or otherwise, of an assessment imposed upon them, and I may safely affirm that they are quite satisfied with the new rates, and that they approve of the settlement. In a few cases there were objections, but these objections were all traceable to other causes than the heaviness of the rates. In some of the villages adjoining the hills, the rates on individual fields were raised by the new assessment, but, in nearly all these cases, the ryots were ascertained to be cultivating a much greater extent of land than their amount of farming stock warranted, frequently two bullocks being required to perform the work of six. The former method of giving remissions for bad crops, in a great measure, caused this state of things, acting as a bonus to sloth and slovenly cultivation, as well as affording relief to the hard working and over taxed portion of the agricultural community. Besides, in the poor soil lands near the hills, the beegha is frequently three or four times the size of the beegha of the black soil villages, and the rates, though much lower on the former description of land, still appear high to a ryot holding a large-sized Beegha field, who happens to compare notes with regard to the total assessment placed on their several fields, with a brother ryot, whose field contains beeghas of more moderate dimensions; at least he frequently makes use of such an argument when raising objections to the assessment placed on his field. Most of the ryots, however, of the villages forming

the one Rupee and eight anna group, allowed that the assessment was most liberal, and that their "Nibhownee" for the future would be ensured. The Mussulman ryots of Mumdapoor were generally dissatisfied with the rates placed on their fields, though lower than than those of the old assessment, but, from a visit I paid to their village, I ascertained that they are indolent cultivators, and on that account, their profits for the future may not be so high as those of the Ryots of other villages. Some other persons in other villages also raised similarly unreasonable objections, but on the whole, I was much pleased with the manner in which the new assessment was received by the great majority of the ryots of the talooka.

21. Whilst maintaining therefore that the new assessment is, in every respect, suitable for the district, I do not wish to throw out hopes that the prosperity of the district will at once be insured by the change of system. The ryots are generally in most wretchedly impoverished circumstances and a long period must elapse before they can entirely recover their independence and feel the full benefit of their changed position. Many measures might, undoubtedly, be recommended by which their condition would be much improved without loss to the State; but until I am enabled, by further experience, to submit well-defined projects for the improvement of these districts, I prefer to preserve silence on the subject. I would, however, again venture strongly to recommend the early construction of the proposed road through the district towards Malligaum, as I am convinced that the outlay would, indirectly, soon be more than repaid to the Government, from the increase of cultivation caused by the more easy transmission of agricultural produce to market.

25. During the time of Jummabundy the Mamlutdar submitted to me a statement of outstanding balances of land revenue up to the end of the year 1848-49. He had, beforehand, made inquiries as to the amount recoverable, or the contrary, and requested my instructions on the subject of the final disposal of the question. In the absence of the Assistant Collector in charge of the district, and possessing favourable opportunities of inquiring into the truth

of the mamlutdar's statement and also considering it to be of importance that the new system should be set a-going clear of such outstanding balances, I felt myself authorized to make personal inquiries of the villagers, and others concerned, with a view of testing the correctness of the statements, prepared by the mamlutdar; and, as the result was satisfactory, I beg to recommend that the irrecoverable balances, amounting to,

For 1257 or 1847-48.....	Rupees.	114	10	3
For 1258 or 1848-49	„	982	0	3
Total	„	1,096	10	6

be struck off the books of the Talooka.

26. In conclusion, it affords me much pleasure to bring to your notice the willing and efficient assistance rendered to me throughout the whole period of my stay in the district, by the Mamlutdar, Bhaskur Govind, who appears to be a most intelligent, zealous and active officer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. S. A. ANDERSON,
Superintendent Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey and Assessment, and Assistant Collector.

Superintendent's Office, Ahmednuggur 29nd November 1850.

To

FORM

Cultivation Register for the Village of *Turuf* *Talooka* In

Survey Numbers	Name by which known	Description of Tenure	Name of Tenure	Occupancy				Assessment						By what constituted in 1845-46						Number of Entry	In what Name entered at Introduction for existing year							Remarks
				Dry Crop	Garden	Sarsen	Total	Dry Crop		Garden		Grand Total	Number of each Survey Number	Name, or other ascertained Name of Cultivator	Dry Crop	Garden	Total	Dry Crop	Garden	Total		Name, or other ascertained Name of Cultivator	Dry Crop	Garden	Total	Dry Crop	Garden	Total	
								Rate per Acre.	Total.	Rate per Acre.	Total.																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				A. G.	A. G.	A. G.	A. G.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			A. G.	A. G.	A. G.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			A. G.	A. G.	A. G.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Malla Gamkar	Mocasa	Bulleje Walled Trimbakjee, Patel	4 33	2 0	0 35	7 28	0 15 0	4 6 0	1 14 0	2 12 0	6 4 0	1	Bulleje Walled Trimbakjee, Patel	4 33	2 0	6 33	4 6 0	3 12 0	9 4 0	1	Bulleje Walled Trimbakjee, Patel	4 33	2 0	6 33	4 6 0	3 12 0	9 4 0	
2	Eisenpeer	Enam	Dewul Mulik	7 10	...	...	7 10	0 13 6	6 6 0	....	....	6 6 0	..	Waste.....	....	..	....	....	....	....	..		....	....	....	....	....	....	
3	Gaindar Malla	Gurkudar	Government	0 15	....	....	0 15	0 7 0	0 6 0	....	....	0 6 0	..	Waste.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..		....	....	....	....	....	....	
4	Amubair Bavasa	Mocasa	Bulleje Walled Gulmoth Row Patel	28 35	....	....	28 35	0 15 6	27 12 0	....	....	27 12 0	2	Bajee Walled Gulmoth Row, Patel	14 17	....	14 17	13 12 0	....	13 12 0	2	Bajee Walled Gulmoth Row, Patel	14 17	....	14 17	13 12 0	....	13 12 0	
													1	Bulleje Walled Trimbakjee, Patel	14 17	....	14 17	14 0 0	....	14 0 0	2	Bulleje Walled Trimbakjee, Patel	14 17	....	14 17	14 0 0	....	14 0 0	

And so on, to the remaining Numbers.

Note.—In calculating the assessment, according to the new rates, it is necessary, in order to prevent confusion in the accounts, to add to, or deduct from the total, fractional portions of a pooln (4 annas.)

Superintendent's Office, Ahmednuggur, 22nd November 1850.

G. S. A. ANDERSON,
Superintendent Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey and Assessment, and Assistant Collector

Extract paras. 34 *to* 36 *and* 38 *of a Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, dated* 31*st January* 1851 *No.* 651 *forwarding the Annual Land Revenue and Sayer Reports of the Ahmednuggur Collectorate for the Official year* 1849-50.

Superintendent Survey—Collector's paragraph 98, Rahooree.

34. Lieutenant Anderson's Report gives a clear and satisfactory account of the introduction of the new rates of assessment into Rahooree. The Superintendent alludes to the large amount of Collections in this talooka in the year 1847-48. A statement of collections, remissions, and balances for five years in this talooka is subjoined, which shows that collections were large in 1847-48, but that remissions were also freely given, one talooka, only of the Collectorate received them as largely. In Rahooree they exceeded 9 per cent. on the Government Revenue in that year; whereas, in the whole zillah they amounted to Rupees 3-10-7 per cent.

Years.	Collections.	Remissions.	Balances.
1	2	3	4
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1845-46	33,574 9 6	71,140 11 6	2,343 15 1
1846-47	60,019 13 1	45,973 8 9	2,553 8 9
1847-48	96,929 8	10,520 3 6	5,478 15 5
1848-49	56,139 6 1	49,874 11 10	2,857 8 6
1849-50	47,484 4 4	13,516 7 4	192 5 4
Total	2,94,147 9 5	1,81,025 10 11	13,426 5 1

Paragraph 109.

35. I trust that Government will sanction the permanency of the new rates in Rahooree for thirty years, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Field Boundaries, Paragraph 110.

36. On the subject of field boundary marks, the letter quoted by the Collector was replied to by Government on 30th August (No. 6466.)

Irrecoverable Balance, paragraph 117.

38. On the 14th January (No. 369), Government sanctioned the balance in Rahooree being written off the books.

Extract paras. 98 *to* 110 *of a Letter from the Collector of Ahmednuggur to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, dated the* 25*th November* 1850, *No.* 3,000.

Lieutenant Anderson's Report on the Rahooree Talooka.

98. The Jummabundy settlement of the Rahooree Talooka was made by Lieutenant Anderson, the Superintendent of the Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey, and the new rates, which were sanctioned by Government for one year, were duly introduced.

Government to Revenue Commissioner No. 2018, dated the 15th March 1850.

99. Lieutenant Anderson's Report is very clear and lucid, and gives full information on the subject reported on; it will be needless, therefore, for me to trouble you with any lengthened comments on it, and I shall therefore confine myself to a few remarks on such paras. only as appear to require some notice.

Lieutenant Anderson's paragraph 6.

100. The amount entered, as being the aggregate of the Jummabundy Settlement, and the amount also entered as having been granted as Remission, does not tally with the Statement A. accompanying this Report.

101. The cause of this difference is owing to Lieutenant Anderson having entered, and very properly so, merely the revenue of the land under cultivation which had been brought under the operation of the new survey; whereas, in my Statement is included several other items, such as proceeds of kooruns, grass-lands, salt-petre farm, mahars' huddola, Government shares in alienated villages, &c.

102. The amount of the Revenue Settlement was Rs. 61,193-1-0, of which Rs. 47,484-4-4 has been collected. Rs. 13,516-7-4 has been struck off as Remission, and Rs. 192-5-4 remained as balance due on the 1st August 1850.

Col. 12 of Statement A. Column 14. Column 17.

103. The detail of the remissions so granted, is as follows:—

Grounds of Remissions.	Amount.		
	Rs.	a.	p.
1 Damage to crops.....	3,507	6	5
2 Uncultivated land	9,056	14	7
3 Loss by Fire.....	14	11	0
4 Mahar's Huddola	810	7	6
5 Desertions.....	126	15	10
Total....	13,516	7	4

104. In this paragraph, Lieutenant Anderson alludes to what he is pleased to term "the oppressiveness of the exorbitant collections of 1847-48," he does not explain, however, how they were exorbitant, or how they were oppressive.

Lieutenant Anderson's paragraph 7.

105. The Collections, it is true, were higher in 1847-48, than in former years, because the crops were superior, and remission or abatement of rent was only given in consideration of the damage which the crops had sustained, and as the damage was slight, so also the amount of remission was very trifling.

106. Although the crops of 1847-48 were very superior, the farmers did not derive so much advantage as could have been wished; because, in consequence of the great abundance, the price of grain became ruinously low, and was in some places almost unsaleable at any price. Had I been aware that such would have been the case, I should have been induced to have made a more liberal abatement from the rent.

From Collector to Revenue Commissioner, No. 2042, dated 22nd August 1850.
Revenue Commissioner to Government, No. 3678, dated 2nd September 1850.
Government to Revenue Commissioner, No. 5186, dated the 4th May 1850.

107. The causes which led to the falling off of cultivation in 1848-49 have already been explained. The Revenue Report for 1847-48 has already been replied to by Government, and I do not find in it any very stringent remarks on the Revenue management of the Rahooree Talooka, for that year.

8th paragraph.

108. From the Statements given in Lieutenant Anderson's 8th paragraph, it appears that there is a decrease in the Revenue of 1849-50 as compared with 1848-49, to the extent of Rs 11,465-15-8 or Rs. 21½ per cent. and that the immediate financial effects of the new survey rates appear to be a decrease of Revenue to the extent of Rs. 18,486-0-4 or Rs. 30¾ per cent.

Para. 15.

109. Lieutenant Anderson suggests that the revised assessment should be permanently sanctioned, and I am not aware of any objection to this course being adopted in the same manner as has been the case in other surveyed districts, viz. for 30 years.

Paragraph 16. Boundary Marks.

110. Lieutenant Anderson states that the boundary marks are not in so satisfactory a state as he could have wished. Every exertion, I would beg to observe, is being made to put the boundary marks in proper order.

Collector to Revenue Commissioner, No. 1557, dated the 2nd July 1850.
Do. to ditto, No. 1911, dated the 6th August 1850.

I have already brought to your notice the defective state of the boundary marks of the Patoda and Kurda Talookas, and the matter has not yet been finally disposed of.

No. 2305 of 1851.

T. D. Revenue.

To

E. H. TOWNSEND, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner,
Southern Division.

Sir,—

I have laid before Government Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's Report of 22nd November 1850, No. 133, and such portions of your letter * of 31st January 1851, No. 651, and W. Spooner's † of 25th November 1850, No. 3,000, as relate to the revised Assessment of the Rahooree Talooka.

Revenue Commissioner, Paras 2, 34 and 38.

† Collector's Paras. 98 to 121.

2. Government have had much pleasure in reading the report by Lieut. G. S. A. Anderson; it evinces much judgment, and an earnest desire to perform important duties in a satisfactory manner.

4. Government see reason to fear that the collections of 1847-48 were made with too heavy a hand, as urged by Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson. The sudden and unexpected introduction of the two measures adverted to in paras. 8 and 9 of Mr. Tucker's Annual Report for 1847-48 cannot but have operated injuriously, and the circumstance that Government, when reviewing the report, did not notice the subject with especial reference to the Rahooree district is to be attributed to their having considered it would be sufficient warning to the Collector, as regarded the future, to limit their strictures to the much more objectionable mode of procedure adopted in the Sungumnair district.

Lieutenant Anderson's Paragraph 7; Collector's Paragraphs 104 & 107; Revenue Commissioner's Paragraph 34.

5. The following Statement shows the centesimal proportion of the collections, remissions, and balances during each of the years entered in your 34th para., and from it, it will be seen that the remissions in 1847-48 were less than during any one year, the collections and balances much heavier. The weight of the

Government demands in collections and balances was, it is assumed, attributable to the introduction of the two new measures adverted to above.

Statement exhibiting the proportionate amount of collections, remissions, and unrealized balances, in the Rahooree Talooka for the five years commencing 1845-46 *and ending* 1849-50, *one hundred being assumed as the highest amount.*

Years.	Centesimal proportion.		
	Collections.	Remissions.	Outstanding Balances.
1845-46 ..	34·63	100	42·77
1846-47 ..	61·92	64·62	46·48
1847-48 ..	00	1478	100
1848-49 ..	57·91	7010	52·15
1849-50 ..	48·98	18·99	3·50

6. It may be as well to refer Mr. Spooner to para. 5 of Government letter of 7th October 1850, No. 7310, bearing on the plea he has again advanced of the price of grain having been so low in 1847-48.

7. The mistake made by Mr. Davidson, relative to the soil requiring rest, is to be regretted; a mistake of this nature on the part of a careful classifying officer such as Government believe Mr. Davidson to be, is unaccountable. He should be cautioned that a similar mistake on his part either in considering lands as capable of cultivation which are incapable, or the contrary, will not be passed over with such light notice as that with which Government treat his error in the present instance. From the papers now before Government it appears that the error has not prejudiced the classification or calculations based on that classification, which is fortunate.

Para. 12 of Lieut. Anderson's Report.

8. The state of the boundary marks in the Ahmednuggur Collectorate is very unsatisfactory. The Survey Department is

answerable for their proper construction ; the Collector's Department for receiving them in proper order and for their preservation. On these points the most stringent orders should be given to Mr. Spooner. The sum required by para. 18 of Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's letter and such further sum as may be found necessary must be disbursed by the Collector.

10. The revised assessment introduced in the Rahooree Talooka is now sanctioned for thirty years including the current season.

11. The attention of the Collector is to be directed to the printed circular, which has been issued, relative to the adjustment of outstanding balances in revised districts.

Government letter No. 2063, dated 4th March 1851.

13. Para. 21 of Lieutenant Anderson's Report, relative to roads has been transferred to the General Department for early consideration in continuance of the paragraphs of Lieutenant G. S. A. Anderson's and yours and the Collector's former reports, transferred under date 15th March 1850.

Lieutenant Anderson's para. 13 & 52
Collector's..... ,, 12
Revenue Commissioner's ,, 10

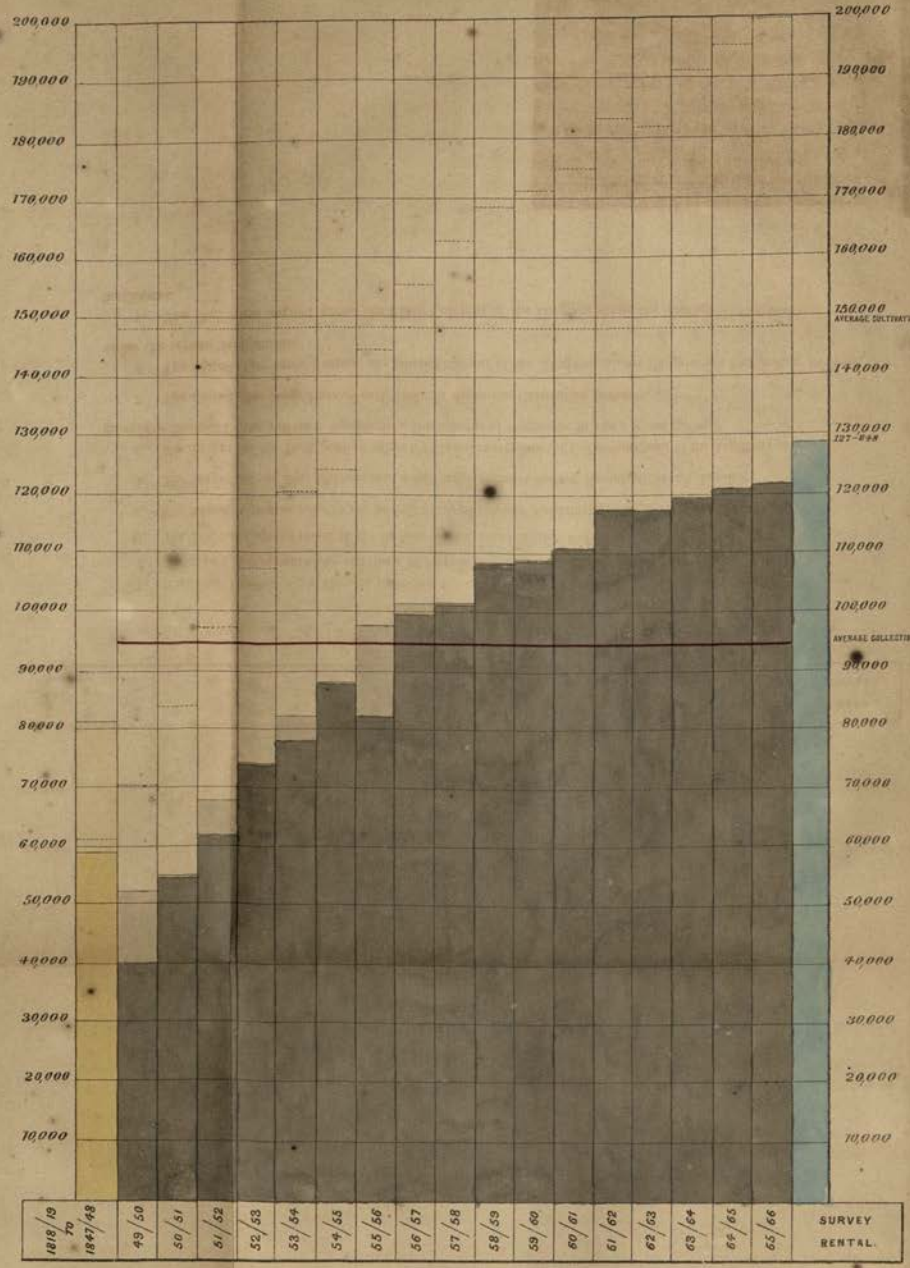
I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. E. GOLDSMID,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 8th March.

NOTE.—Several paras. of the above correspondence have been omitted, as they relate to matters which are not now of interest.

DIAGRAM illustrative of the results of the Survey Settlement in 101 Villages formerly comprised in the RAHOOREE DISTRICT, from 1849-50 to 1865-66, as contrasted with the former system under British Rule.



EXPLANATION.

1. The year 1848-49 being the one preceding the change from the old to the new system, is omitted.
2. The items are measured by the Scale of Rupees and Acres carried across the Diagram.
3. The Yellow Column refers to the former system under British Rule.
4. The **Black** Columns refer to the several years of the new Settlement from 1849-50 to 1865-66.
5. The height of the Blue Column represents the maximum Survey Rental on Arable Land.
6. The height of the Dark portion of each Column represents the Collections, and of the Lighter portion where given, the demand; the difference representing the amount of remissions in years when given.
7. The dotted line carried across each Column shows the Cultivation in Acres.
8. The dotted line carried across the **Black** Columns of the Diagram shows the average Cultivation in acres under the revised Settlement.
9. The **Red** line carried across the **Black** Columns of the Diagram shows the average Collections under the Settlement.

APPENDIX.

MEMORANDUM No. 499 OF 1870.

The accompanying diagram, prepared from information supplied by the Collector of Ahmednuggur, may be considered of interest, as exhibiting the financial results of the settlement in the 101 villages formerly comprised in the Rahooree Talooka to which the preceding papers refer. It shows the revenue collections from 1849-50 to 1865-66, the last year for which I am in possession of returns, as contrasted with those of the former system under British Rule, from 1818-19 to 1847-48.

2. The survey Rental on arable land, as indicated by the height of the blue column of the diagram, is Rs. 1,27,848, the corrected amount given in my report, No. 133, of 22nd November 1850.

3. The diagram affords very satisfactory evidence of the financial success of the settlement, and shows that although the district, as anticipated by me, was some time in recovering completely from its former state of depression, and from the effects of the high collections of 1847-48, its progress, especially of late years, has been sure and steady. No doubt the rise in prices, during the period embraced in the last three or four years entered in the diagram, has materially aided in bringing about such satisfactory results, and has caused my anticipations to be more than realized; but, before prices rose to any great extent, and notwithstanding its previous impoverished condition and some unfavourable seasons at the outset, the district was from the first making a rapid advance towards prosperity. This can be easily perceived from an inspection of the diagram, the annual collections and cultivation shown in it having, with very slight exceptions, a strong and permanent upward tendency; whilst those of the former system, as exhibited in the diagram of my original report, are marked by extreme downward, as well as upward fluctuations. The average annual realizations of land revenue

have also risen from about Rs. 60,000 under the old system, to about Rs. 95,000 under the new, a difference of 58 per cent. in favour of the latter. Moreover, the realizations in 1865-66, the last year entered in the diagram, amounted, in round numbers, to Rs. 1,22,000, being an increase of 103 per cent. on the former average. The remissions have also fallen from an average annual sum of about Rs. 23,000 under the old system, to Rs. 2,400 under the new, a decrease of nearly nine-tenths, and for the last ten years of those entered in the diagram, the remissions have been so slight as hardly to deserve notice. The cultivation has, at the same time, increased from an annual average of about 61,000 acres under the old system, to one of 148,000 acres under the new, an increase of about 142 per cent. This indicates a very large addition to the farming stock of the district, and shows that even the inferior lands can be cultivated at a profit; the poor soils, and they appear to have been nearly all taken up for cultivation, being the last to be brought under the plough. It may further be mentioned that I have been informed by the local officers that, so far as could be easily ascertained, about 132 new wells have been constructed since the time of settlement, and that "the Ryot class in Rahooree is better off than formerly."

4. Even more favourable prospects may be looked for in future years; and, should the rise in prices be permanent, which appears probable, there can be no doubt that the district will be able to bear, without the slightest inconvenience or injury, a considerably enhanced assessment, when the time comes for revising the rates, at the expiry of the present settlement, about ten years hence.

G. S. A. ANDERSON, Colonel,
Formerly Superintendent Ahmednuggur Revenue Survey and Assessment.

Punnalla, May 1870.

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on 27 November, 2018